

'6,700 Iraqi refugees died in two months'

WASHINGTON (R) — An estimated 6,700 Iraqi refugees, mostly children under five, died during a two-month period in mountain camps along the Turkish border when they fled the Iraqi army's wrath, the U.S. government said Friday. It reported that more than 30 countries had contributed over \$740 million in bilateral and multilateral relief aid for the Iraqi refugees, mostly Kurds, who are now returning in large numbers to their homes and villages. The report, by the Agency for International Development, provided no fatality estimate for refugees who fled to Iraq's border with Iran. But it said the death toll among children under five at the Turkish border reached a peak rate of 20.5 per 10,000 population per day in the period from April 13 to April 26 when the refugees were crowded in mountain camps under freezing conditions with little food, water or shelter. The Centers for Disease Control, a U.S. agency, "estimates that 6,700 people, mostly children under five, died between March 29 and May 25," the report said.

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PLO official holds talks in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — PLO executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas discussed the Middle East peace process on Friday with a senior aide to President Hosni Mubarak. Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen, met Mubarak's top political adviser, Osama Al Baz for two hours, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's representative in Cairo, Said Kanak, told reporters. Kanak said Abu Mazen had left for Jordan, where he would hold similar talks. PLO leader Yasser Arafat said in remarks published on Thursday there was an agreement in principle between Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the PLO on holding a meeting to coordinate positions before any Middle East peace talks.

Five beheaded in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Five men convicted for various crimes were beheaded Friday in accordance with Saudi laws based on the Islamic sharia, the interior ministry announced. They included a Pakistani national, Muntaz Haji Nabhal, for smuggling narcotics, a crime for which the death penalty was introduced in Saudi Arabia in recent years. The other four were Saudis. Two were convicted of pirating a Riyadh taxi and robbing the driver at gunpoint, and the two others for snatching a girl from her father's house and raping her.

Britain's first black union chief

LONDON (R) — Britain's first black trade union leader was elected on Friday in a landmark poll to head the country's biggest union of 1.2 million members. Jamaican-born Bill Morris, 52, will take over as general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) next March. Morris, who has been TGWU deputy general secretary for six years, beat three other candidates for the job and said his election was a victory for minority groups in Britain.

Kuwait asks French army engineers to stay

PARIS (R) — Kuwait has asked France to extend by a month the deployment in the emirate of a detachment of French combat engineers who have defused thousands of mines and explosives, parliament was told on Friday. Junior minister for veterans affairs Louis Mexandeau said the last 42 French sappers operating in Kuwait were due to leave next week but Kuwaiti authorities had asked if they could stay until mid-July. He indicated Paris's reply would be affirmative.

Gemayel aides arrested

BEIRUT (R) — Four aides of ex-President Amin Gemayel have been detained for distributing leaflets attacking a treaty tying Lebanon to its neighbour Syria, judicial sources said on Friday. They said six people working at Gemayel's office in Beirut were arrested earlier this week and charged with attempting to disturb security by handing out anti-government leaflets. Two of the six were later released. Gemayel issued a statement month last deploring the Lebanese-Syrian "brotherhood, cooperation and coordination" treaty that was signed in Damascus on May 22.

Primakov believes Gorbachev will be invited to G-7 summit

MOSCOW (AP) — A top aide to Mikhail S. Gorbachev said U.S. President George Bush appears to be leaning towards inviting the Soviet president to attend next month's economic summit of industrialised nations. The aide, Yevgeny Primakov, told the government newspaper Izvestia that Bush recognised the Soviet Union did not intend to beg for massive Western aid if Gorbachev were allowed to attend the July 15-17 Group of Seven summit in London.

White House: Israel has 'other ideas'

Jordan accuses Israel of blocking U.S. peace effort

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan on Friday criticised Israel's rejection of a U.N. role at any Middle East peace conference and accused the Jewish state of blocking U.S. efforts to settle the conflict. "It is strange that any country at this time in particular rejects a role for the United Nations, especially after the Gulf crisis," Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri told Reuters.

"This only shows Israeli ill-intentions regarding the (Israeli-occupied territories and a peaceful solution."

U.S. president George Bush has sent letters to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Middle East leaders in an attempt to bridge differences between Israel and Arab countries over a peace conference.

American and Israeli officials would not disclose the contents of Shamir's reply. But the Israeli officials said Shamir remained as opposed as ever to Arab demands for U.N. participation and for a full conference to meet more than once.

Israeli reports said Bush asked Shamir to accept a minor U.N. role and a reconvening of the conference after six months to

hear reports on the progress of direct talks between Israel and Arab states. "We have always said that the problem lies with Israel and Israel will be the reason for aborting the American efforts," Masri said. "Now Shamir comes up with this stand."

Jordan, a long-time supporter of a U.N.-sponsored peace conference, has shown flexibility towards the shape of the talks as long as the outcome would be Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories.

His Majesty King Hussein, who has accepted the principle of the conference, replied to Bush's letter by telling the president he would continue to work with the United States on the issue.

"His Majesty reiterated in the letter to Bush Jordan's sincere willingness to deal with Washington to achieve comprehensive peace in the region," a senior official said.

But one Jordanian official said: "At the rate things are going I do not foresee a peace conference soon. Israel does not want to compromise and the U.S. does not want to use pressure."

The White House acknow-

ledged on Friday that Israel had "other ideas" about a formula for Middle East peace negotiations than the United States but insisted that this would not derail U.S. efforts to arrange a peace conference.

"We continue to pursue the matter," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said when asked about reports that Shamir had rejected President Bush's appeal to accept compromise conditions for peace talks.

Israeli officials said in Tel Aviv that Shamir refused to agree to a United Nations role in the talks or more than one meeting of a full peace conference.

"His position is very clear — against any continuation of a conference and against any participation of the United Nations," said one official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Fitzwater refused to divulge details of Shamir's response but said that the United States had heard back from Israel and Jordan and continued to discuss the peace process with them.

"They have some other ideas. We have ideas. We continue to talk," he said.

Islamic bloc wins presidency, council of Pharmacists Association

By Serene Hakala
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic bloc scored a decisive victory in the Pharmacists Association elections on Friday, hours after they clashed with liberals and nationalists over arrangements to segregate voters according to their sexes.

Mr. Husam Iddine Mismar, the Islamist candidate won the presidency replacing Tayseer Humsi, a recognised liberal. The Islamic bloc won seven out of the nine seats on the association council.

As voters filed into the Professional Associations Complex Fri-

day morning they were faced with arrangements segregating voters by sex in two separate halls, witnesses and pharmacists said. The unexpected move surprised liberals who strongly objected to extending the Islamists' ideological beliefs to the halls of the association complex, they said.

Mr. Anis Muasher, a pharmacist and president of the Jordan Society for the Preservation of Nature said that a dispute erupted when voters entered to cast their votes and "saw that two separate boxes were set up, one designated for the male members and the other for the females."

"We have always voted

together," Mr. Muasher told the Jordan Times. "The general assembly also agreed that there would be no segregation," he added.

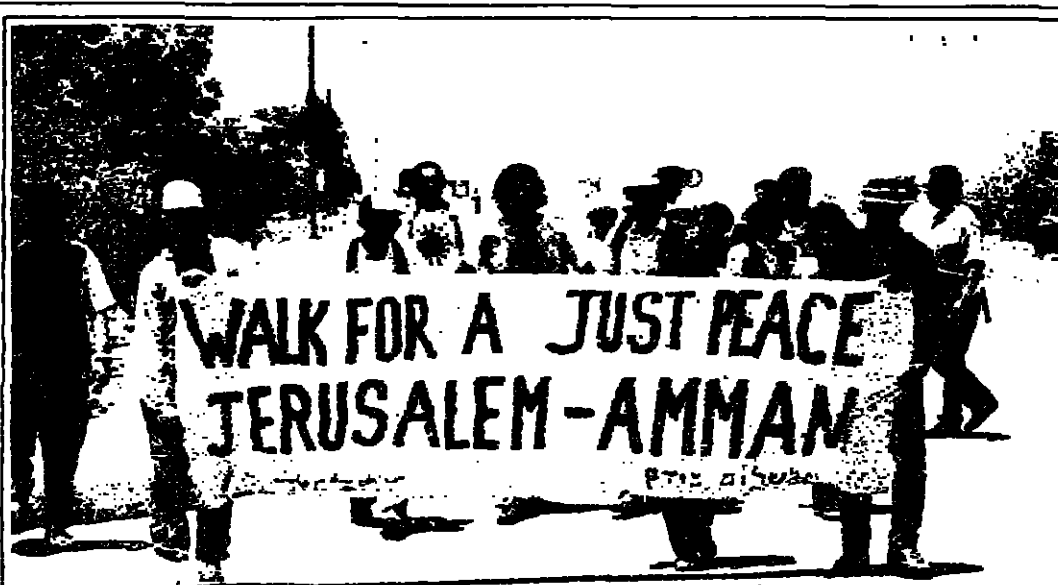
Mr. Muasher, who reportedly tore out his voting card upon seeing the two separate boxes, said that he finally cast his vote "at the voting place designated for women."

Bearded men blocked the entrance of the hall designated for men barring women from entering the room, eye witnesses said. Mr. Humsi, the former president of the association in a speech

(Continued on page 5)



Anis Muasher, pharmacist and President of Jordan Nature Preservation Society, tears up his ballot card in protest of Friday's procedural mix up; on the right the outgoing president of the pharmacists association, Tayseer Humsi wrangles with an Islamist activist (Photo by Yusef Al Allam)



After being arrested in Israel, peace team now in Jordan

KING HUSSEIN BRIDGE (AP)

International peace activists crossed into Jordan Friday after a three-day march in the West Bank to demonstrate in support of peace between Israel and the Arabs.

More than 20 members of the Gulf Peace Team crossed King Hussein bridge, a restricted military zone linking Jordan with the occupied West Bank, which along with other Arab lands was occupied by Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

By arriving here, the peace activists, of nine different western and Asian nationalities, ended the first half of a 140-kilometre walk commemorating the Middle

East war of 1967.

The group was scheduled to proceed with its march Saturday to arrive in Amman Monday.

"Our aim is to draw attention again to the Palestinian question, to the plight of those people under the rule of (Israeli) occupation and the guarantee that they be granted their natural human rights," said Karl-Erik Paasonen, a march organiser from Brisbane, Australia.

He said: "We want to see a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

Paasonen spoke of "continued Israeli threats and harassment in the occupied territories to make us back off our walking plans."

The group was arrested twice by Israeli forces in the occupied territories for allegedly entering "restricted military areas."

Paasonen's remarks were made to the Associated Press as the group silently marched through the deserted streets of a small town, overlooking the Jordan River and the mountains of Jerusalem.

"Walk for a just peace, Jerusalem-Amman," read one of the banners which the group waived for cameramen as they proceeded to a camping area, outside the restricted military zone.

(Continued on page 5)

FLN denies deal:

FIS proclaims victory, ends strike

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's Muslim fundamentalists Friday called off a general strike which inspired days of protests, brought down a government and saw troops enforcing a state of siege on city streets.

But the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), quoted by the Algerian news agency APS, quickly denied talk of a deal with the fundamentalists.

Leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) told tens of thousands of worshippers at Friday prayers in the capital they had reached an agreement with the FLN and that parliamentary and presidential elections would be held within six months.

"After the latest negotiations, in which we won a victory for all Muslims in Algeria, there will be legislative and presidential elections in six months," the fiery FIS deputy leader Ali Belhadj said. "You must return to work," he told the massive crowd.

More than 50,000 FIS supporters roared "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greater) in response to the statements by Belhadj and

FIS leader Abassi Madani.

They later dispersed calmly under the watchful eye of soldiers from the mosque in the FIS stronghold of Bab Al Oued.

The FLN, quoted by APS, said the two sides' leaders had met earlier in the day but denied that they had struck any deal.

The political violence, which killed up to 50 people according to Western diplomats, resulted in the postponement of Algeria's first multi-party parliamentary elections, planned for June 27.

Neither Madani nor Belhadj had been seen in public since Tuesday, hours before President Chadli Benjedid imposed a state of siege on the country, sacked the government and postponed the elections.

The FIS launched the general strike on May 25 to force changes in election rules and demand that Chadli himself face the voters at the same time as the parliamentary polls.

The next presidential election had been set for 1998.

Western diplomatic sources estimate that between 40 and 50

people have been killed in two weeks of street demonstrations during which protesters also called for an immediate Islamic state.

"I hope that the new government will not commit the same follies as the old one," Belhadj told FIS supporters Friday.

Earlier Friday, the Algerian news agency APS reported that gunmen in Islamic fundamentalist strongholds had shot and wounded five members of the security forces during the first night of a curfew in the capital.

Soldiers returned fire, but there were no reports of other casualties.

Ghozali, holding talks with politicians, on Thursday met five of the 39 political parties who had been due to contest the June 27 elections. The five, named by Algerian Television, did not include the FIS.

Martyrs' and May 1st squares, used as FIS rallying points for the now-banned protests, were cordoned off on Friday by tanks and soldiers, some with bayonets fixed.

Badran orders 3 factories open

By Khalil Abdul Salam
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Friday ordered that three factories, closed down last week for violating health safety regulations, open. The prime minister said the waste water flowing out of these factories was of minor effect on the Zarqa River water, but stipulated these factories tackle the violations.

Mr. Badran also issued directives that other 15 factories be also opened once they complied health safety regulations.

On Tuesday the government ordered the closure of 30 factories for violating health safety regulations, and causing damage to public health. The closure came only days after the start of a campaign by the Zarqa health committee to determine which factories violated the regulations.

Water discharged from these factories into the Zarqa River basin was found to contain bacterial and chemical pollutants.

The closure order was issued by acting Health Minister Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben.

Authorities have allowed the management and owners of factories to enter them, bring in raw material and take out stored goods. They were also allowed to repair the water treatment plants at those factories in order to re-open them after a week of their closure. Directors of these factories will be informed formally of these decisions in a meeting to be held Saturday to make sure they will adhere to the regulations.

The pollution problem will be tackled comprehensively in a study currently being prepared by the Amman Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with experts.

U.S., Soviet summit uncertain

GENEVA (Agencies) — Saying prospects for a June summit are dimming, U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker is making a last-ditch effort with his Soviet counterpart to conclude an elusive missile-reduction treaty.

Presky technical issues stood in the way, but Baker said Friday in Copenhagen, Denmark, that he and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander A. Bessmertnykh would grapple with them rather than "kicking them over to follow-on negotiations."

The treaty, the first to sharply reduce stockpiles of the deadliest long-range nuclear missiles, is the projected centerpiece for a summit meeting in Moscow between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Last week, White House officials were spreading the word the talks might be held in late June. But Baker all but scotched that possibility.

"That is going to be a difficult time-frame to try and meet," he said at a news conference before flying to Geneva to meet with Bessmertnykh.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater also expressed doubt about a late June date. Baker, in Copenhagen for a NATO foreign ministers' meeting, flew to Geneva for a hastily arranged meeting with Bessmertnykh at the Soviet diplomatic mission.

They were discussing the strategic arms reduction talks (START) treaty, which will cut superpower arsenals of the most destructive weapons known to mankind by about a third.

Baker told a news conference before leaving Copenhagen the negotiations were now moving towards their "endgame." But Bessmertnykh told TASS news agency he did not expect a breakthrough.

(Continued on page 5)

Charter: A common ground with no ceiling

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The final draft of the National Charter says the document "lays the foundations for the general national effort and guides its route... illuminates the road to the future..." lays the general directives for the practice of political pluralism — considered the cornerstone of democracy — by leaning on constitutional foundations, national political heritage and the existing realities of the Jordanian society... in a manner which would ensure the continuation of the national development march and the democratic shift in the country... guarding it against tripping or turning backwards.

To many who helped draft the document, the purpose of preparing a National Charter and incorporating it into the political, social, economic and cultural life of Jordan became

submerged in long debates over its connection to the already widely respected, but partially obscure, constitution.

Some of the sixty members of the commission who drafted the charter thought that it was a contract between the government and the people describing their own role in drawing it up as that of "honest brokers." Others thought that it was going to provide a ceiling for political activity in the Kingdom — meaning placing limits on the formation of independent-thinking political parties rather than enhancing the concept of political pluralism.

The pessimists contended it was a "hoax," the legally minded amongst them said it was an attempt to pull the carpet from under the constitution; while some other political activists thought it was an attempt to whitewash the different shades of political thinking in the Kingdom. However, mainstream politi-

cians recognised the need to do something to mark the shift from authoritarian rule to a state governed by democracy in all its aspects and embedded in lasting institutions.

"Our role will be to draft a National Charter which will constitute the starting point upon which people from all walks of life will meet before they are launched into the practice of political pluralism," His Majesty King Hussein said in mandating the commission on April 21, 1990.

In the final analysis, what the King proposed in Ramadan of last year finally emerged as the basis for what the National Charter stands for today.

"The National Charter is not a ceiling for political manoeuvre; it is the common denominator among the different political ideologies in the country," a member of the commission says.

The undercurrents that steered the debate of the panel

were simple: almost every colour of Jordan's political rainbow was represented and everyone wanted to ensure that he or she and the line of thought he or she represented was included in the charter in such a way that when political life took off in Jordan they would have left their mark on the final product.

Mr. Ahmad Obeidat, a former prime minister as well as appointed president of at commission, described it as "a general ideological framework... proposing new basic concepts and advanced ideas that govern the course of the Jordanian state within the contemporary perspective."

Mr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the former-spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood in the Lower House of Parliament and speaker of the House, told the first session of the panel that "the main objective and duty of this commission is to draft a charter; preparing an

agreement defining the country's higher objectives at all levels and securing the endorsement of the people on common efforts towards achieving these objectives."

Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, a former minister and president of the University of Jordan, rejected suggestions that the National Charter was a purely political goal. "The National Charter is not political and does not merely have a political character... it has different axes of sociology, economy and politics."

Mr. Sulaiman Al Hadidi, a former head of the Lawyers Association, laid out the questions that were on the minds of many. "We want to know the strength of the charter vis-a-vis the constitution. Is it in itself a constitution? Is it a law? Is it higher? We want at least to know what this is for?"

"My personal opinion of the charter is that it explains the constitution, the constitution is

the skeleton and the charter, if you will, is the muscles and nerves." Dr. Ishaq Al Farhan, an Islamist and former minister of education, said.

Issa Mdanat, prominent member of the Communist Party and a deputy, underlined the subordinate position of the charter vis-a-vis the constitution. "I personally believe that the charter is not an alternative to the constitution, nor an attempt at dodging the constitution. The constitution is the source with which the charter has to be compatible."

How did these differing opinions and ideologies merge to formulate a single document, a social contract for the country? Participants in the commission maintain that some paragraphs in the charter on "The charter — reasons and aims" took many hours and much hard work to write.

The final product, which

Agreement on autonomy for Iraqi Kurds likely by mid-month; minister says liberalisation irreversible

BAGHDAD, Iraq (Agencies) — Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani says he expects to sign an agreement giving autonomy to Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds by mid-June after overcoming disagreements on the size of the Kurdish region.

"There will be an agreement by the 15th of June, or maybe the 20th of June," Barzani told reporters during impromptu news conferences late Thursday night and Friday morning at a Baghdad hotel.

Barzani, head of the largest Iraqi Kurdish rebel faction, announced May 18 that a delegation of Kurdish leaders had reached agreement in principle with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the outlines of democracy for Iraq and autonomy for the Kurds.

A month earlier, the other main Kurdish leader, Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, had reported a more general agreement with Iraq for autonomy.

In spite of repeated Iraqi and Kurdish reports that a final deal was imminent, no pact has been forthcoming.

Barzani said he was sending teams to the north to consult with local leaders there.

An agreement could help ease international pressure on the Iraqi leader and give Iraqi Kurds the autonomy they have vainly sought for decades.

It could also solve the dilemma of Western forces trying to protect Kurds who fled after an uprising in March. They want to leave, but there are fears withdrawal could lead to reprisal attacks by Iraqi forces.

U.S. army Col. Dick Naab said Thursday that forces in northern Iraq would overstep their role by fulfilling requests by local Kurdish leaders for an allied-run demilitarized zone in northern Iraq and pressuring Baghdad on autonomy.

"That's not our mission. We're really getting ready to go home," said Naab, the allies' chief negotiator with Iraqi and Kurdish leaders.

Barzani, head of the Kurdish Democratic Party, said the allies "didn't ask us when they came and they won't ask us when they leave."

Barzani, who said he has been in Baghdad for a month, said the two sides were close to agreement on the disputed city of Kirkuk, a major oil producing centre whose status helped sink earlier autonomy talks.

"We are going to find a way to solve this problem," said Barzani. He suggested "it would be maybe a joint administration."

The Kurds have already agreed to let the central government keep the oil revenues from Kirkuk, but the two sides have disputed who should control politics in the city of some 600,000.

The central government, arguing the city has a non-Kurdish majority, has insisted it remain outside a Kurdish autonomous region.

The Kurds, accusing the central government of trying to drive out Kirkuk's Kurds and replace them with Arab immigrants, have insisted it must be inside their zone.

Talabani told Agency France Press (AFP) Wednesday that Iraq had moved 182,000 Kurds out of Kirkuk since 1988. On Thursday, he told the Associated Press that the Iraqi leadership was stalling in the autonomy talks.

Barzani said Iraqi troops had killed 5,000 Kurds, mostly civilians, when it recaptured Kirkuk from Kurdish rebels in March after an uprising swept through the north.

"That is the result of the abnormal situation, the war," he said. Barzani said the first step of the autonomy accord would be for an amnesty to permit all Kurds to return home. Some 2 million fled after Iraqi forces struck back during the March rebellion.

He has said the deal also calls for multi-party democracy throughout Iraq, an end to automatic rule by the Arab Baath Socialist Party, free speech and Kurdish rule — within the Iraqi state — in the north.

Barzani said the two sides would create "a body" to hear complaints about alleged violations of the agreement — apparently as an alternative to the international guarantees that the Iraqis have rejected.

Although several previous autonomy agreements collapsed, Barzani said, "we feel they (the Iraqis) are serious ... we try to work as a team so that both sides are triumphant."

He denied reports the Iraqis had held him incommunicado in Baghdad: "It's not true and it wouldn't be so easy," he said.

He also said a Kurdish region would not be a haven for Kurdish rebels fighting Turkey and Iran, which each have large Kurdish populations.

"We have enough problems for ourselves," he said. "We don't like to have more problems. We advise them to solve their problems peacefully."

On Wednesday, an Iraqi minister said that political liberalisation in Iraq was irreversible, within limits set to prevent Iran dismembering the country by subversion.

Information Minister Hamid Youssef Humadi said the government would announce a program for multi-party elections by the end of this year. It is the first time an Iraqi minister has mentioned a timescale.

"We are moving into a new phase. We are serious ... it is irreversible," he said in an interview with Reuters and the New York Times.

The elections would take place under a new constitution abolishing the privileged status of the ruling Baath Party and dis-

banding the Revolutionary Command Council, which has governed Iraq by decree since the Baath coup of 1968.

Humadi said Iraq remained politically and socially undeveloped so outsiders should not expect rapid change.

"In these societies (like Iraq) criticism is not practised. People think that criticism will affect the prestige of the head of the family, the tribe or the emperor."

"These societies are changing into Western-style democracies but you cannot expect them to change overnight," he said.

The minister said that of the Iraqi parties now working underground, only the Daawa Party, a Shiite Muslim group close to Tehran, would fail to qualify for legal recognition because of its religious ideology and foreign connections.

"We still regard it as a group of Iranian agents and so they have proved to be ... we will not allow religious parties because they will work against the unity of Iraq. (To legalise it) would lead to the dismemberment of Iraq and bring in Iran," he said.

"They are not prepared for logical dialogue. You cannot have dialogue with a fundamentalist who sees everyone else as infidel," Humadi added.

The government accused Iran of large-scale intervention during the unrest which broke out in the Shiite Muslim south of Iraq after the defeat of the Iraqi army in Kuwait. Shiites make up the majority of the Iraqi population but the ruling elite is Sunni Muslim.

Humadi, whose country fought Iran for eight years between 1980 and 1988, said Iraq saw Tehran as the only danger to its security. He dismissed speculation that Iran's policy was changing under pragmatists led by its President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani.

"It's not truly pragmatic ... they have the same intentions as

to a freedom of information act request by the Associated Press for details on the performance on the Patriot during the war.

David Harris of the missile command's public affairs office in Huntsville, Alabama, said most information about the Patriot's role in the war is classified secret.

The Oldacre memo said craters in Israel made by Scud missiles were inspected only by members of the Israeli defence forces. They used "nonstandard criteria" for assessing whether the holes were caused by warheads or missile debris, he wrote.

"All craters found were assessed as Scud warhead craters," Oldacre wrote, whereas the U.S. inspectors of craters in Saudi Arabia distinguished between those caused by Scud warheads and those caused by Scud fuel tanks or other debris.

The distinction is central to a post-war debate over the military usefulness of the Patriot system and its effectiveness in destroying Scud warheads. Some have argued that the Patriot did as much harm as good in Israel because it often failed to stop the Scud warheads, which carries 800-360 kilograms of high explosives.

Because the Israelis counted all craters as Scud warhead strikes, they calculated that only 44 per cent of Scuds challenged by Patriots resulted in warhead kills, Oldacre wrote. The army says the exact number of Scud engagements by Patriots in Israel is classified secret, but sources said the number was fewer than 20. Thus, by the 44 per cent calculation, that would mean eight or fewer Scud warheads were hit by Patriots.

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The minister said that of the Iraqi parties now working underground, only the Daawa Party, a Shiite Muslim group close to Tehran, would fail to qualify for legal recognition because of its religious ideology and foreign connections.

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Massoud Barzani before — an Islamic republic (in Iraq), he said.

He added: "Both sides are positive in their attitude and no problem cannot be solved."

Humadi said U.N. sanctions against Iraq — originally imposed when it invaded Kuwait last August — would not undermine President Saddam Hussein.

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1991

Iraq-Kuwait car plates to be changed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Vehicles bearing licence plates Iraq-Kuwait will have the plates changed into ones issued to cars for temporary stay, according to regulations released Friday by the Ministry of Interior which is responsible for the Licensing Department in Amman.

According to the new regulations, the Iraq-Kuwait licence plates will be changed into plates with black background and white lettering in English and in Arabic and will be forwarded to the Customs Department in Amman to be given to the car owners.

It said that the Customs Department in Amman would open a special register for these cars and the new plates would be valid for six months, subject to renewal.

The Interior Ministry statement said that the regulations, which go into effect as of June 11, also stipulate that these vehicles will be subject to the annual mechanical and technical test at the Licensing Department, like all Jordanian vehicles, and they will be required to pay annual fees and insurance like the Jordanian cars.

The new regulations followed numerous appeals by the Jordanian expatriates, who own these cars, to the government, to deal with their problem as they can not go back to Kuwait and had to pay special fees to the concerned authorities in Jordan every three months, in accordance with Jordanian laws.

Registration centres set up for travellers to the occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visitors to the occupied Arab territories as of June 13 will have to register at centres in Amman and three other cities to organise their departure over the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges across the River Jordan.

A statement from the Public Security Department (PSD) said that the first batch of visitors to be allowed to cross into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, under the new regulations, can make the trip on June 16, 1991.

It said that the Amman centres, which are controlled by PSD teams, would be at Arwa Bint Al Harth School, in Jabal Amman, for those travelling to Jerusalem and Hebron governorates, at Aishah Im Al Munimeen School, in Jabal Hussein, for those travelling to Gaza and Al Hussein School, in Jabal Hussein, for travellers to the Nabulus Governorate.

According to the statement, similar centres for the registration of visitors will be opened in Irbid, Zarqa and Salt.

Visitors to the occupied territories should acquire temporary passports before making the trip and children born outside the occupied lands should have an Israeli visit permit and a temporary passport from Jordan if they are above five years of age, said the statement.

Children under five should be registered in the passports of their parents, the statement added.

The statement said that males born between 1958 and 1974 and permanent Jordanian residents should obtain special permit from the army headquarters before making the crossing.

The PSD regulations are usually issued during the summer holidays when the bridges are congested with travellers to and from the occupied territories.

The congestion normally results from the huge number of Palestinians working in the Gulf Arab countries, together with those residing in Jordan, who visit relatives on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.



PRINCESS SARVATH ATTENDS GRADUATION: Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Amman International Baccalaureate School Thursday presented certificates of appreciation to 57 students graduating from the Tawjihi and Baccalaureate classes. The graduation ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Princess Sarvath also presented certificates of

appreciation to some of the school staff and to students excelling in music, social services and other schools activities. Addressing the ceremony, Princess Sarvath paid tribute to the teaching staff for their efforts in preparing the students for future life and congratulated the graduating students and their families. The Princess wished graduates a prosperous future and continued success.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Thursday chairs a meeting of the Arab Potash Company's board in the presence of a group of ministers (Petra photo)

Government pledges support for APC

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran has pledged full government support for the Arab Potash Company (APC) plans to step up efforts for exploiting minerals from the Dead Sea and said that together, with the phosphate, Jordanian potash constitutes one of the main sources of revenues for the national economy.

Addressing a meeting of the APC's board during an inspection visit to the company's headquarters in Amman, the prime minister expressed satisfaction with the company's operations and said that thanks to continued endeavours, the company had been producing high quality mineral salts and competing with major world companies. He said the Jordanian potash finds its way to numerous world markets.

The prime minister told Jordan Television after the meeting that he was briefed on the company's plans and programmes and the ongoing expansion scheme designed to boost production beyond the annual two million tonne level in the coming few years.

"The government has provided guarantees to the APC to acquire \$15 million and \$16 million loans, from the World Bank and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank respectively, in order to help finance the company's expansion scheme," the prime minister said.

"The government is giving full support to the APC to embark on the chemical industries project, based on the Dead Sea salts, which envisages the production of

sodium carbonate, magnesium and other products," said the prime minister.

Jordan's phosphate and potash provide basic components for the Jordanian fertiliser industry in Aqaba whose products are marketed both in the country and abroad, according to APC officials.

Present at the meeting were ministers of finance, industry and trade, energy and mineral resources, planning, education, transport and telecommunications, water and irrigation in addition to the APC board of directors and APC Director General Ali Ensour.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the meeting tackled prospects for increasing APC's contributions towards the development of the local community in southern Jordan where the APC plant is located.

Matters related to marketing APC products and plans for the exploitation of the Dead Sea salts were reviewed at the meeting, and the prime minister requested the minister of transport to look into the prospect of providing facilities for the exportation of 100,000 tonnes of Dead Sea salts via Aqaba, to rise to 250,000 annually in the future.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Ensour gave details about the company's present financial and administrative situation as well as its future programmes which entail expansion through stages.

"Nearly \$110 million will be needed to carry out the first phase of the two-stage plan which is due to be completed by 1993.

and another \$130 million will be needed for the second stage which will start in 1993 and finish in 1995," Mr. Ensour explained.

Mr. Ensour said that the coming year would witness the commencement of the chemical industries project which costs up to \$1100 million.

"Jordan assures a unique geographical position between the east and the west, enabling the country to export its potash at very competitive prices and bringing in badly needed hard currency," said Mr. Ensour.

Besides, he said, the new plans would offer more jobs to the unemployed Jordanians.

Mr. Ensour complained of a number of drawbacks facing the chemical industries project at the Dead Sea, like the lack of sufficient expertise and lack of funds to finance the project.

At present, the APC produces 1.4 million tonnes of potash which earned the country a net profit of JD 39.5 million in 1990.

Last year, the APC sold nearly 85 per cent of its production to Asian countries, with India acquiring the biggest share, but other countries in the West, like Italy, France and Brazil have been importing Jordanian potash as well.

The APC which was established in 1956, has its plants at a site near the southern tip of the Dead Sea which provides the raw materials for production.

Arab-German dialogue tackles future cooperation

By Serene Halasa and Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first Arab-German dialogue since the German reunification in October of last year was held for two days in Amman to discuss Arab-German relations in economic, political and cultural fields as well as international and bilateral relations.

The meeting, attended by a number of intellectuals and thinkers from Jordan, Germany, Syria and Egypt, also focused on new requirements for a German policy in the Middle East in light of the new world order.

Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, a professor of political science at University of Jordan, said on Friday, that he did not believe Germany would play an active role in the new world order. The reason, Dr. Abu Jaber explained, is because the "new world order has already been formed," and Germany, like the rest of the world, would only serve as "a recipient nation."

As for Germany's anticipated role in any future solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute, Dr. Abu Jaber said that their role would be "negligible." He attributed that to many factors, primarily the close American-Israeli relationship.

"The U.S.-Israeli alliance will not permit any serious interference (in the Arab-Israeli dispute) to Europeans, especially Germans," he said. "Besides, the German are busy with the union. This process is estimated to cost them \$100 billion, for rehabilitating one third of the country," he added.

Another participant, Dr. Mohammed Dajani, a Jordanian researcher, expressed hope that similar conferences would be held in the future. "The European-Arab dialogue fell through after three years," Dr. Dajani said. "I hope that we can come up with an annual Arab-German dialogue."

At Thursday's session, participants discussed a range of issues, which included the special relation between Germany and Israel in what they referred to as the "guilt complex," the new requirements for a German policy in the Middle East within the framework of a European policy. And the role of the Arab World in the emerging new world order.

In his opening speech, Mr. Sayed Yassin, secretary general of the Arab Thought Forum in Egypt, outlined the importance of the Arab-German dialogue, which, he said, came at a "critical stage and turning point in the history of the Middle East in particular, and the world at large in general."

Mr. Yassin highlighted the importance of Germany's role in shaping the future of international policies, especially concerning

the Middle East. "We, Arabs, look with trust and hope to more cooperation with Germany," he said. "West Germany was in its own right an economic giant before unity; the unified Germany is on its way to becoming a political and cultural giant as well."

Germany is a prominent trade partner of the Arab World. It has an effective role in the Arab development and modernisation efforts, as a source of financing, know-how, technology and environment," Mr. Yassin added.

Dr. Udo Steinbach, head of the German delegation and the director of the Deutsches Orient Institut in Germany, said that since the dialogue was being held by Arabs and Germans, discussions should be confined to a general framework. This framework would urge all participants to take part in discussing the new world order and solutions to the Middle East problems.

Although Germany is currently involved in matters pertaining to its unification and confronting economic issues resulting from it, the country is bound to play an active role in the future of the international community, Dr. Steinbach said.

In reviewing German-Israeli relations and their impact on Arab-German ties, Dr. Steinbach pointed out that the German people seek a just settlement to the Palestinian problem.

Dr. Feidmann Butner, professor of political science at the Institute of Near Eastern Politics of the University of Berlin, said that Germany's role in the Middle East was still limited because of events rotating around the reunification of the two Germanys and the consequences that followed. Although these issues dominated the political scene in Germany, according to Dr. Butner, he affirmed Germany's wish to reach a just solution to all Middle Eastern problems, especially the Palestinian problem.

Dr. Butner also touched on the German-Israeli relation saying that "it is Germany's responsibility to actively contribute to the security of Israel (guilt complex), at the same time promoting peace in the region." He explained that this meant differentiating between Israel's security needs and its internal policies regarding the treatment of Palestinians.

Commenting on what was referred to as the German guilt complex towards Jews, Arab participants presented their perspectives on that matter.

"To what extent can any country go in responding to external pressure? Can it continue on responding to that pressure regardless of any moral consideration?" asked Dr. Ossama Al Ghazali

Harb, president of Al Ahran Strategic Centre in Egypt, referring to the Zionist pressure on Germany.

He added that Arabs expected from Germany concrete demands, which included pressuring Israel for a "just and final solution," differentiating between "aiding and giving Israel more power to exercise oppression in the occupied Arab territories" and "discouraging Israeli settlement in those territories."

Dr. Harb also said that the guilt complex Germans have towards Israel should not be reflected at the expense of Palestinians.

Salameh Ahmad Salameh, Al Ahran news paper in Egypt, said he believed that the complex no longer exists in many, but is continuously fed by exploited by political parties in the Arab world, "out of the Middle East," and "not to be forced take sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict." "It is too much to hang on hanging German politics towards the Middle East on the guilt feelings," Mr. Salameh added.

Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber supported the arguments presented by the Arab participants adding that "we don't mind you (Germans) supporting Israel, but we have to realize that we (Arabs) have the right to breathe and exist."

We cannot exclude the American factor," Mr. Taher Al Murr, Jordan's foreign minister said. He explained that Germany's foreign policy complied with the American foreign policy because of the latter's influence in West Germany following World War II.

Mr. Masri said that time was running out as far as resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict was concerned because of Israel's continuous settlement policy in the occupied territories. He added that he felt the occupied territories would be lost within the coming two years if nothing is done immediately to prevent any further Israeli settlement.

Another topic discussed Thursday was the cultural and communication ties between the Arabs and Germany. In a paper entitled "Cultural Communication and Cooperation Between Germany and the Arabs," Dr. Ali Mahafzah, president of the Mouk University, reviewed the relations between the two sides.

Dr. Mahafzah said that "strengthening Arab-German cultural cooperation certainly requires expansion of dialogue to make it embrace various aspects of life and segments of society. For cultural dialogue will eventually convince both nations that their future lies in collaboration and not in conflict if they want to achieve progress, peace and prosperity."

Photos reflect 'aura of peace'

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The French Cultural Centre in Al Weibdeh Tuesday started displaying in its exhibition hall, works by the French photographer Bernard Guillot.

The black and white photographs on display show mostly still-life items and buildings in Egypt and France. Most of the pictures are sombre as they have an overcast sky above. Other photographs are a contrasting study of shadows and light. Almost all the photographs are devoid of human figures.

Mr. Guillot makes a point of choosing the subjects so that they reflect the actual atmosphere of the area. "I do not take photographs that distort the aura of the place," Mr. Guillot said. "I try to show on film exactly what I saw so that I can capture the feelings I had when I was taking the picture."

In one photograph of a coffee shop in a low-income area in Egypt, Mr. Guillot captures the view from the entrance and shows the traditional wooden chairs and tables scattered in

the room. On a wall there is a broken mirror. This photograph is one of the few with human subjects. A man is sitting at a table in the empty coffee shop with a look of despair on his face.

Mr. Guillot says he finds his subjects by chance as he walks around the area he is living in at the time. "I spend most of my time in Paris and in Cairo so I find most of my subjects there," he said. "But when I do select my subjects, I like them to have a timelessness to them so that when one looks at them they are looking into eternity," Mr. Guillot said.

Mr. Guillot became a photographer 15 years ago and has not stopped since. "Until 15 years ago I used to be interested in painting, but then photography gave me a different kind of artistic satisfaction. I felt that with the choice of subjects to photograph I can prove that something is happening and can give my work some continuity," he says.

The exhibition, which was opened under the patronage of the French Ambassador Denis Boudard, will continue until June 18.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION

- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Guillot at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Sahman at Alfa Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle.



Apple computer fourth annual exhibition opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Thursday opened the fourth annual exhibition of Apple computers at the Marriott Hotel. Taking part in the three-day exhibition are a number of local and international specialised companies. Lectures by specialists will be delivered at the exhibition, which exhibits the latest

Apple technologies, featuring Apple's new line of products, the Macintosh classic, the Macintosh LC and the Macintosh si, a large number of officials and those interested in the computer technology. The exhibition is open daily to the public for three days (7-8-9/6/1991) from 10:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. and from 4:00 until 9:00 p.m.

Italians arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Italian Senate Thursday arrived in Amman at the head of an Italian parliamentary delegation on a few day visit for talks with Jordanian officials on international and regional developments. The delegation's visit is part of a tour in the region aimed at finding the Jordanian and Arab points of view towards the efforts currently being made to establish peace in the region.

Jordanian-Russian company established

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director of the Russian Foodstoy Company Polad Polad Zadah and his Deputy Vladimir Traquikun Thursday arrived here on a visit to Jordan at the invitation of Munir Sukhtian Company. The visit is aimed at enhancing existing bilateral relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union in the fields of water and irrigation, land reclamation and construction projects. Munir Sukhtian and the Russian company will set up a joint venture company, based in Amman. The company aims, among other things, at

creating job opportunities for Jordanians.

Foodstoy Company is one of the leading specialised companies in the Soviet Union. It carried out specialised projects in the areas of water and irrigation, and reclamation, dam-building and other construction projects. It was known previously as the Ministry of Irrigation and Land Reclamation. The company, which employs more than 600,000 people, has carried out important projects in different parts of the world.

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By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

Jordan Times

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Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Stop car pollution!

THERE IS nothing more distasteful to the eyes of Jordanians than to see so many vehicles spewing smog and dirty fumes especially in the summer season. This country is blessed with beautiful weather and a generally clean atmosphere devoid of the pollutants that afflict so many industrial and developing countries. With the helping hand of nature, Jordanians have been environment-addicts ever since the subject of ecology and related issues started to figure high on the international agenda. His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had spearheaded this global interest and concern and the people of Jordan picked up where their leaders had left off.

So why then are the eyes of the concerned officials closed to the ghastly sight of automobiles polluting the otherwise clean and healthy air of the country? Why do the licensing authorities get carried away with their demands for basic car fittings and ignore exhaust emissions that poison the atmosphere? Better than insisting on washed up cars and clean motors, the licensing authorities should better check the mechanical functioning of the car engines in a bid to make sure that polluting cars are kept off the streets and highways of the country.

Meanwhile traffic policemen are called upon to pass on traffic violation tickets to every polluting vehicle. If there is no legislation already on such a subject, it is high time that concerned officials catch on with the message of their leaders and legislate fresh on this alarming situation. The people of Jordan can also pitch in to root out this continuing menace to their health by reporting any automobile that pollutes the air. This could be done by taking down on the licence plate numbers of such cars and pass them on to concerned police department. Once the numbers of the culprits are dotted down on the police computer, traffic policemen can stop them at the earliest opportunity and subject them to on the spot inspection. Surely there are other ways to deal with this ominous phenomenon but the main thing is to begin to do something about it immediately.

It is unfortunate that when the country commemorated Traffic Day last month, no one bothered to raise this aspect of traffic problems. It took the early days and nights of the summer to awaken many of us to the continuing damage being done to the clean air of our cities and towns by the exhausts of automobiles. Being a touristic country with an ambitious plan to develop further this sector, there is obviously a pressing need to stem this problem and nip it in the bud. One of the principal features of the country is its cleanliness. This image cannot be maintained without keeping the air of Jordan clean and healthy for us and our visitors.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily once again tackled the question of solidarity among Arab countries and said it was essential in view of the growing dangers looming in the offing. So far, there are no signs that the peace process will be moving ahead, and no sign that the Middle East issues will be resolved; and therefore the Arab countries can not ignore the need for solidarity and collective stand to foil Israel's ambitious designs, the paper said. It is no longer a secret now that Israeli leaders keep the world busy with different issues and they keep bragging about their desire to have peace, but in reality they are preparing to impose capitulation on the Arabs, it said. Any delay in confronting this danger and in ending inter-Arab differences to meet the Israeli challenge will not augur well for the Arabs, the paper added. It said that the Arab countries are now confronting perhaps the most serious and crucial moment in their history; and they have to realise that they ought to strengthen their positions and actions if they want to have the international legitimacy implemented and their lands and rights restored. The paper said that it is incumbent on Arab leaders to make a move now, so that they would not find themselves facing the prospect of succumbing to the will of their common enemy.

Sawt Al Shaab described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's call for the creation of what he called "greater Israel" as another evidence of the Jewish state's obdurate stand vis-a-vis the U.S.-sponsored peace initiative. The statement noted the daily, stepped up Israeli military attacks and air raids on Palestinian and Lebanese positions in southern Lebanon, providing another proof that the Israelis have no intention of complying with the wish of the international community or their closest ally with regard to the establishment of peace in the Middle East. The paper said that the more leniency and flexibility the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular show with regard to a settlement, the further the Israelis go to prove their intransigence and the more pressure they exert on the Americans to get economic and military assistance. The Israelis are doing all in their power, through the continued aggression on Lebanon and repressive actions against the Palestinians, in order to divert the world public attention from the real problems of the region, and to abort the American-sponsored initiative, said the paper. The paper said that the United States is not placing pressure on Israel to force it to respond favourably to the international peace efforts. Unless such pressure is exerted, and unless the Israelis are forced to comply with the international legitimacy requirements, it said, all U.S. efforts will be in vain.

View From Amman

The Gulf crisis: lessons and Arab alternatives

THOUGH the lessons contemporary and future scholars may conclude from the Gulf war may run in the hundreds, I shall concentrate on only a few immediate ones that touch on our lives in the region.

It is obvious now that the so-called "liberation" of Kuwait was probably the last item on the mind of the Western leaders that participated in Operation Desert Shield against Iraq. To reiterate once again, Iraq should not have occupied Kuwait and once it did, it should have withdrawn immediately allowing for the outstanding issues between the two states to be resolved by other means. Yet one may pose the following question: Was the destruction of Iraq, its reduction to primitivism and by implication the stripping of the last vestige, even pretense of Arab power, equal to the deed of Iraq? And for whose benefit were Iraq and the Arabs reduced?

Surely, no one then or now cared about the issue of democracy in Kuwait. In fact the very word is taboo in the entire Gulf region as well as in Saudi Arabia causing severe jitters among the ruling families. And now that the masks have been removed, the region, indeed the entire Arab World, is left totally naked and defenceless, not only before Israel and other regional powers, but before any power whose fancy may be struck to penetrate the region any time it wishes.

The loss of any power cover is only matched by the loss of dignity and the feeling of guilt and shame by certain Arab states who participated in Operation Desert Shield. And now to make matters worse the Arab forces that participated in the operation are leaving, or being asked to leave under dubious and suspicious circumstances.

Since the dawn of history, life has not been easy in our Middle

Eastern region coveted by conquerors and adventurers. What makes its life more complicated is that its indigenous peoples, the Arabs, Turks and Iranians are not only suspicious of each other but divided amongst themselves as well. In May of 1990 I published an article in Sawt Al Shaab newspaper in Amman predicting that the historical moment in the region was ripe for a major event: that the Arab World would be struck a tremendous blow that would leave it powerless for sometime to come and that the net beneficiaries in addition to Israel would be the United States and Iran.

The blow has been struck and once again we are trying to collect the pieces and put "humpty-dumpty" together again. This brings us to the second lesson emanating from the catastrophe, which is that we of the region, Arabs, Turks, Iranians and now the Israelis have learned nothing. In the Arab case the situation is even worse: the house is so divided amongst itself, that one wonders if it exists at all. Our tattered tent would probably be more of an accurate description than a house especially since we seem to have regressed to the Jahiliyyah period (the pre-Islamic age of ignorance), with some tribes aligning themselves with foreign powers against their brothers. And sadly, all that is done under the cover of certain Arab regimes claiming Islamic or nationalistic legitimacy.

Where do we go from here? Again it needs to be emphasised that the regimes of the area seem to have learned little or nothing. They all converged on Cairo to elect Mr. Esmat Abdul Meguid, who now ironically as secretary-general of the Arab League declares that the Arab World will not give up one inch of the occupied territories to Israel! Brave words that should have been spoken earlier. And sadly, there are people amongst us who were

pleased with the empty rhetoric devoid of any content.

Where do we go from here? We have some alternatives still. We can continue our ride in the American merry-go-round; the Israeli controlled so-called peace process thus being witness to, and participant in our own murder. For while Mr. Bush is keen on disarming the already disarmed Arabs, American weapons and technology are pouring into Israel. We can do that. That is one alternative. We can capitulate and accept anything that Israel wants and be happy and content about it, secure in the knowledge that if Israel becomes our master, no harm will befall us except from it, when it wants. At least we will be protected from other predators. Some people may think this a viable solution in view of our total nakedness before the elements. A third alternative may be to build a high and mighty wall around Palestine and whatever other lands Israel has occupied and concentrate on developing ourselves, regaining our direction, our health until such time as things may change. The wall must be mental and perhaps even physical: something like the Great China Wall to keep the inhabitants of the great ghetto isolated while we concentrate on rebuilding our shattered civilisation. Let them truck and trade with whomever they wish, do what they want, but we must never truck with them nor give them the legitimacy of de jure recognition: A birth certificate. In the meantime we must stop the rhetoric, the talk and start working, building and creating innovatively. For in the name of security and because of the exigencies ever created by Israel, most Arab states killed not only any meaningful institutionalised political development, but the very mind of its people and assassinated its intelligence, the necessary yeast for the elevation of the society.

Algeria's Chadli: A reformist who backs his ideas with force

ALGIERS (R) — In nearly 12 years in power President Chadli Benjedid, who declared a state of siege throughout Algeria on Wednesday, has proved himself a careful reformist not afraid to support his ideas with force.

He set the one-party state on the road to multi-party democracy three years ago. Thirty-nine parties subsequently registered to compete in June 27 parliamentary elections.

Their ideologies extended from Communist to radical Islamic fundamentalist whose challenge on the streets brought his order for the army to move into the city. Chadli suspended the elections and sacked the government.

For years a socialist stronghold with a monolithic political system that brooked no dissent, the country was steered towards an open society under his pragmatic leadership.

In contrast to the dour and austere Houari Boumedienne who ruled from 1965 to 1978, Chadli rejected dogmatic socialism as an answer to the serious economic problems assailing the country after oil prices crashed.

Chadli, an outsider chosen by the army to succeed Boumedienne, proved himself a skilful politician quickly overcoming rivals to assert his leadership.

Chadli, an army colonel until he became president, began cautiously. He toned down Algeria's radical stance on the world scene, introduced gradual economic reforms, and initiated an efficiency and anti-corruption drive in the administration.

He increased the pace of change after riots erupted in October 1988 in protest against soaring prices, food shortages, unemployment and lack of freedom.

Martial law was declared. Troops put down the riots in which officials said at least 159

people died. But at the same time, Chadli ousted hardliners like Mohammed Cherif Messadia, the ruling FLN's number two, who opposed his liberal policies.

The riots were directed against the system, not Chadli. He seized the opportunity to make changes which would have been unthinkable two years earlier.

The only candidate, he was re-elected for a third term with 81 per cent of the vote in December 1988 and changed the power structure, making government answerable to the national assembly instead of the FLN.

A new constitution, approved by 73 per cent in a referendum among the country's 25 million people in February 1989, dropped the hitherto sacrosanct word "socialism." For the first time it allowed the other parties and ensured the right to strike.

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which emerged as the main opposition party during local elections last year, took advantage in may of the right to strike. It called an indefinite general strike to demand changes in election laws it said favoured the ruling FLN, in power since independence in 1962.

In foreign affairs, an even-handed Chadli maintained close ties with the socialist bloc and, in 1983, was the first Algerian president to visit France. He also developed a warmer relationship with the United States.

Washington expressed gratitude to Chadli for Algeria's mediating role when American hostages were freed in Algiers in January 1981 after being held for 444 days at the U.S. embassy in Tehran which Iran called a "nest of spies."

Chadli worked as peace broker in the war between Iran and Iraq, resumed ties with Egypt, and was a prime mover in setting up the

Arab Maghreb Union linking Algeria with Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia in February 1989.

He involved Algeria in a tripartite committee which laid the groundwork to the Taif agreement by Lebanon's parliament and progress in ending that country's 16-year-old civil war.

During the Gulf war the Algerian government showed cautious sympathy for Iraq but avoided any open breach with the West and Kuwait's Arab allies.

After reconciliation with Morocco in 1988 following a 12-year-long dispute over the Western Sahara, Algeria wound down support for Polisario guerrillas fighting the Moroccan army for independence in the Western Sahara. The issue was put in the hands of the United Nations for settlement.

Chadli's efforts at home concentrated on ending corruption, improving economic efficiency and giving private enterprise a larger role.

Chadli was born on April 14, 1929 at Boueldja in the east to a farming family rooted in traditional Islamic values. He joined anti-French guerrillas a few months after the seven-year-old liberation war began in November 1954.

From private he rose to become battalion commander in 1960, and then joined the general staff headed by Boumedienne in Ghardimaou, Tunisia.

After independence, he was put in charge of the Constantine military region and moved to Oran in 1964, taking part in the coup against Algeria's first President Ahmed Ben Bella in 1965.

Little is known about his private life. He made several pilgrimages to Mecca. He is married with five children, enjoys playing cards and smoking an occasional Cuban Cigar.

Italy's political parties face triple challenge

By Stephen Addison
Reuters

ROME — Italy's squabbling political parties, widely regarded as an anachronism in a uniting Europe, face three major challenges to their authority this month.

A referendum, an election and a provocative attempt to deepen Italy's north-south divide will all underline growing public exasperation with the political status quo, commentators say.

The mood was expressed this week by Ettore Gallo, president of the constitutional court. "We don't need to change the constitution or the republic," he said. "We need to change the men in charge."

Italian governments fall so often because no one party is strong enough to govern on its own, leading to an endless series of short-lived and fractious coalitions.

The present government, led by Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, took power only two months ago but is already split over how to control public finances and deal with organised crime.

It cannot last longer than the spring of 1992 — the deadline for the next elections — and many expect it to collapse later this year.

The first of the three challenges comes on June 9 and 10 when

Italians vote on a proposal designed to simplify the country's complex electoral system.

They will be asked if they want to cut the number of candidates they can choose in an election from four to one.

The proposal's author, law professor Mario Segni, is a Sardinian member of parliament from the ranks of the dominant Christian Democrats (CD). The CD have been in power since World War II.

The son of a former Italian president, Segni believes the existing system is a recipe for electoral fraud, encouraging candidates to buy and sell second, third and fourth choice votes to their rivals.

"Thanks to our electoral system, a few parties have snatched power from the people," he told Reuters last month. "No other big European country has Italy's inefficiency and our inability to solve problems."

The CD themselves are divided on the merits of a referendum but their main coalition allies, the Socialists, have branded it unconstitutional and a waste of money.

A poll in La Giornale newspaper on June 1 said 65 per cent of Italians would turn out to vote and 60 per cent of them would back the reform.

The second challenge, regional elections in Sicily on June 16, also revolves around a CD member disaffected with the current political situation.

Leoluca Orlando, a former

mayor of Palermo who made his name as a dogged opponent of the Mafia in its own stronghold, plans to stand as the head of his own rete or network against the big parties.

Analysts say his local popularity and support from the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the south — the traditional stronghold of the CD — could win him votes both from his old party and from former Communists disillusioned with their party's change of name and direction last year. The Communists voted to transform themselves into a mass social democratic party called the Democratic Party of the Left.

Both Segni and Orlando are avowed critics of the Italian party system which they believe spawns corruption. Orlando says the only entry qualification to his party is honesty.

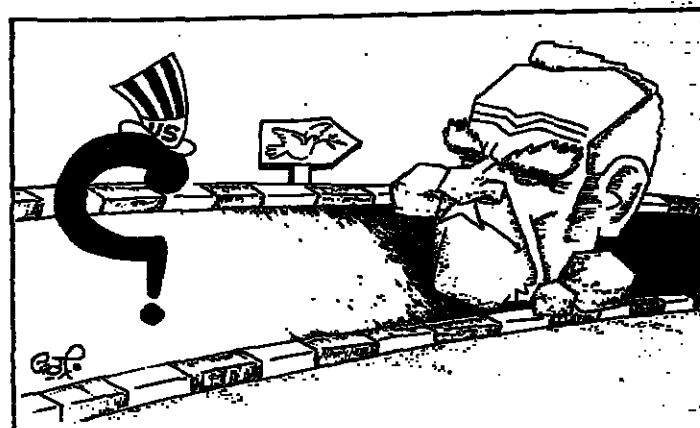
The third challenge is a piece of showmanship from the most dangerous threat of all to the established order.

Senator Umberto Bossi's Lombard League, a fast-rising Northern separatist movement, plans to declare a "republic of the north."

Bossi is vague about details but has talked about setting up a form of shadow government to examine how laws passed from Rome would affect the north.

The scheme, to be presented with a rather more serious initiative to stem immigration, is expected to be unveiled at the league's national meeting on June 16.

The week in print



achieve success in this regard, unless they become open to public criticism and tend to serve the largest sector of the Jordanian public.

The same topic was tackled by Fahd Al Fanek. Writing in Al Ra'i the columnist said that though the minister of information has been calling for openness, he is the one behind the format of most of the news tackling hot issues. This means that any statement issued by the official information services must be rubber-stamped by the minister or his aides, said the writer.

Tackling questions related to information and Jordan Television in particular, Jamal Al Jadid, said that instead of dealing with questions related to poverty and hunger in Jordan as among other issues of concern to the public, Jordan Television continues to busy itself with unimportant topics. Writing in Al Dstour, the columnist said that a programme called Mosaics presented through channel one is for example unsuitable, at a time when the Kingdom has far more important issues to be explored by the concerned officials and members of the public.

The closure of 21 factories in the Zarqa region by the health minister was discussed by a columnist in Al Dstour. Mohammad Daoudieh said that the closure was of course a means to prevent further violations by the factories, but he noted that the concerned authorities should follow up the matter with those factories with regard to the installation of water treatment equipment and to have the factories operating again because the country cannot be left to sustain further economic damages.

Several columnists in the three Arabic dailies discussed current Israeli escalation of tension along the Lebanese border and warned of Israeli's acts of aggression on the Arab countries in the region to divert world public attention from the chronic problem of occupation.

Mahmoud Rimawi said that Syria is targeted by these raids and he expressed belief that Israel's move comes at a time to coincide with Washington's drive to disarm the region. Rimawi, who writes in Al Ra'i daily, said that Syria continues to build up a modern arsenal of weapons to defend itself from Israeli attacks and it is only natural for Israel and the United States to try to stunt such process.

Salameh Ekour said in Sawt Al Shaab that Israel was preparing for a large-scale military adventure into Lebanon and Syria. As President Bush is advocating his idea of disarming the Middle East, Israel is being allowed to launch aggression on Lebanon and Syria with the sole purpose of forcing Syria to give up its rockets and other weapons considered by Washington as

dangerous to Israel's well-being.

Syria's reconciliation with the Palestinians in the past week was considered by a number of columnists as a step in the right direction and aimed at foiling Israel's plots in the Arab region.

Hamad Farsameh said the reconciliation was cause for optimism as it paved the way for solidarity among countries confronting the common enemy. His views were backed by Saleh Qallab who said that in the wake of the Gulf war, Iraq, Turkey and Israel have emerged as strong powers with ambitious designs in the region. Qallab said that reconciliation and solidarity among the confrontation states, can bring new hope to the Arab World.

America's continued embargo on Iraq and the impossible conditions on the Iraqi people for the removal of sanctions on them were discussed by Khalil Khouri and other columnists in the past week.

Khouri said that the embargo on Iraq is being implemented with the help of Arab countries in the Gulf for the purpose of toppling Saddam Hussein on the one hand, and to destroy Iraq's economy on the other. The embargo on Iraq, said Bader Abdul Haq in Al Ra'i daily continues to deprive the innocent people of Iraq of bread, milk and other essentials as well as equipment to rebuild the Iraqi economy. The columnist said that the United States maintains the embargo to cause further weaknesses in the Arab World and to impose its will on the Iraqi people.

Tareq Masarweh went a step further than demanding the embargo be lifted. Writing in Al Ra'i, Masarweh demanded that those countries which launched aggression on Iraq should themselves pay compensation to the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people. Cutting 30 per cent of Iraq's oil revenues to pay war reparations as the U.N. secretary general had demanded, or 50 per cent as Washington and London want, is something reflecting a new colonial rule emerging in the wake of the Gulf war and imposed on that Arab country as part of the military hegemony, said the columnist.

Fahd Al Fanek tackled Bush's call for disarming the Middle East and said that by imposing a ban on weapons, the Arab countries will be deprived of the means of defending themselves at a time when the Israeli enemy is allowed to build up a formidable arsenal of all types of weapons of mass destruction. Mahmoud Rimawi said in his column that Bush's plan to stop shipments of weapons from reaching the Arab World coincided with an announcement to Washington that Israel will receive further American military hardware and fighter planes.

مكتبة من الأصل

Features

Gulf war is not over for U.S. military resisters

By Mitchell Cohen

IN a ramshackle courtroom at Camp Lejeune, N.C., court-martial proceedings against Marines who resisted the Gulf war have begun amid resisters' charges that they have been harassed and tortured.

According to counselors for military resisters, the Marines are dealing harshly with members who applied for conscientious objector status but relatively lightly with offenses by non-COs. And despite a ruling last month easing the resisters' confinement conditions and recognising a pattern of official harassment, verbal and physical attacks reportedly continue.

Tens of thousands of U.S. military personnel went absent without leave between Aug. 2, 1990 and March of this year, counselors say. If charged at all, few of these service members are accused of offenses of heavier than "unauthorised absence." On the other hand, many of the approximately 2,500 service members who filed for conscientious objector status are being held on much more serious desertion charges and could be given long prison terms for various actions related to resisting the war. Most of the CO applicants are African-Americans, Latinos and Asian-Americans.

"This is clearly a political decision on the part of military," says Melissa Ennen of the New York City-based group Hands Off. The group was formed last year by students at the New School for Social Research to defend Pfc. Sam Lwin, a classmate and conscientious objector.

Lwin is the first resister to come to trial at Lejeune. His Bronx-based Marine reserve unit, the Fox Company, was activated last November after he had filed for CO status. Lwin, along with seven other COs from his unit, refused the call-up. If found guilty, Lwin faces a maximum sentence of seven years in jail, a dishonorable discharge and loss of all benefits including health care and pension.

(At press time May 22 Lwin's court-martial, which began May 20, appeared to be going well for the defence. According to Hands Off! sources the judge dismissed the desertion charge, stating that since Lwin reported to duty Dec. 5 and his unit was activated Dec. 22 he could not be considered a deserter. This reduces the maximum sentence he faces to two years).

Meanwhile, Kevin Sparrock of Jersey City, N.J., a student at New York City's School of Visual Arts, and Erik Larsen of Chabot Community College in California, both accused of desertion during time of war, could be sentenced to death, according to briefs filed by lawyers for the government.

Ennen reports that even as

they await court-martial, the COs at Lejeune are being treated differently from other Marines who refused to fight. "Even before their court-martials," Ennen says, "two of them — Danny Gillis and Jimmy Summers — had been held in solitary confinement cells measuring six by eight feet. They have all been intentionally ordered to extra night-time duty, which means they can sleep no longer than three hours in a row."

Gillis, a black man from Baltimore, is due to be court-martialed on charges stemming from a racial attack on him late last year; the charges could land him in jail for seven years.

Racism in the ranks

Gillis became a Muslim after he had enlisted in the military; he filed for conscientious objector status in November 1990. On December 17, 1990, Gillis' unit was ordered to Saudi Arabia, and he refused to go.

According to members of Hands Off!, as the rest of the unit boarded the bus, Gillis sat down on the concrete and refused to get on. Staff Sgt. Schillmeit, who is white, ordered him onto the bus. He again refused. Unable to get Gillis onto the bus, the sergeant called four white Marines to tie Gillis' hands behind his back and beat him up.

Meanwhile, two Black Marines passing by saw four whites punching and kicking a tied-up black man and immediately came to Gillis' defence. Officers as well as enlisted men standing by entered the fray on both sides according to their race. The fight continued until a colonel came by and ordered everyone to "clean it up." At this point, Schillmeit called for a van with wider doors, and Gillis was thrown into it. A minute later, however, he managed to jump out, run about ten feet, and collapsed, screaming: "You're prejudiced. I'm going to get all of you ... on grievances."

Gillis was arrested and thrown in the brig for 41 days. In addition to "missing movement," Gillis is charged with "disrespect to a superior officer" for saying, "You're prejudiced;" "willfully disobeying a lawful command," "disorderly conduct;" and "wrongfully communicating a threat."

In Missouri, an army doctor who refused to be shipped to the Gulf won an unusual court victory in April.

Capt. Yolanda Huett-Vaughn, a Mexican-American, is being held at Fort Wood. She succeeded in having her hearing

officer (the equivalent of a judge in military courts) removed from her case when she charged him with political bias. As a result, the army was forced to bring in a new hearing officer from Fort Knox, which, according to Citizen Soldier staffer Tod Ensign, "is at least outside of the Fort Wood chain of command." Crucial to Huett-Vaughn's success, Ensign believes, is the support she's received from Kansas City anti-war activists. Fifty to 60 supporters have packed all of her hearings, exposing the prosecution's manoeuvres to scrutiny.

Numerous local and national groups, including Hands Off!, the War Resisters League, the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors and Citizen Soldier, have worked hard to support resisters. But some activists say they are dissatisfied at the lack of action by the major anti-war umbrella groupings.

The Lejeune resisters' depictions for their court-martial defences are filled with reports of abuses that began once they applied for CO status. One of the sergeants "enjoyed ordering them to line up and chant 'I am shit' over and over," said one. In the brig, they are not allowed to read political literature. Authorities monitor diaries and artwork, and censor outgoing and incoming mail. Resister Demetrio Perez reports that military officers have tried to force them to sign documents against their will and without approval of their attorneys.

James Summers recounts, "When I arrived at the brig, the guards immediately started making fun of me and my CO status. They put me in leg irons, handcuffs and chains around my waist, and locked me in my cell for five days. I was taken out once a day for five minutes to take a shower." Enrique Gonzalez tells of being denied transportation, unlike other soldiers, and of being forced to walk up to 12 miles a day back and forth to work.

Several human rights groups, including Amnesty International, are now looking into resisters' charges of torture. In addition, 33 Catholic bishops from 23 states have called on President Bush to "stop the military's prosecution of conscientious objectors" and to grant them amnesty, along with honorable discharges. Many French Green Party members of the European Parliament have also expressed indignation at the treatment of the resisters in letters to the U.S. military.

Marine corps loses one

In response to mistreatment

and harassment, a group of resisters at Lejeune took the Marines to court last month, winning an important pretrial motion against the Corps. The judge ruled that their confinement to barracks was illegal, that they were permitted to leave the base, and most importantly, recognised that the harassment they underwent was not made up of isolated incidents, but was systematic and illegal, opening the way for class action suits against the military. Harassment continues, however, supporters say.

Many of the resisters wrote movingly in their CO applications about the development of their anti-war beliefs while in the military.

Marcus Blackwell, of Brooklyn, N.Y., and a student at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, stated "When I joined the military, fighting a war was the farthest thing from my mind." He continued, "My thinking was muddled. I looked at joining the military as a job."

It's not just a job, it's murder

"But when I was sent to the School of Infantry in Camp Lejeune, my eyes were really opened ... Learning how to invade enemy grounds and throwing hand grenades made me wonder, 'Is this really me that is doing this?' So now I was able to shoot and kill a person from 500 yards, destroy whole families and villages and kill people through the air. ... The job I was doing may have been good for the Marine Corps, but it was not for the good of man."

Sgt. David Bobbitt also believes that experiences in the Marine Corps itself prompted him to examine his beliefs on war. During infantry training, he writes, "I saw a man fall from a helicopter to his death. It was very hard for me to accept that he had died, and even harder still to comprehend the casual attitude towards his tragic death by the other Marines."

On April 17, Blackwell was sentenced to 17 months and Bobbitt to 14 months in a military prison, and both received dishonorable discharges after pleading guilty in exchange for reduced sentences.

Mitchell Cohen is a Vietnam-era draft resister and an organiser with the Red Balloon Collective. The article is reprinted from the New York-based *The Guardian*.

National Charter: A common ground with no ceiling

(Continued from page 1)

they say did not embody any of the political ideologies' optimum line, came out only after concessions were extracted from all sides. That is precisely why all those interviewed by the Jordan Times insisted on the document being the minimum point of agreement between parties and in no way translates into the limits of political activity in the country.

Some elements in the final translation of the National Charter as a concept were derived from the constitution and did not generate debate while others had some basis in the constitution but did not receive enough elaboration and left ground to be covered. In a lecture delivered by Mr. Obaidat recently, he pointed to the need to amend some articles of the constitution to incorporate the conclusions reached by the commission within its folds. However, the need to even work on a National Charter that would undertake to deal with the different facets of political, social and economic life in the Kingdom was not actually addressed in the definition.

In his speech at the opening session His Majesty King Hussein reminded the participants of what he described as the sometimes "ugly face of democracy."

"It is a face which appears sometimes when those practicing democracy deviate from the moral and human values in their dealings with other people, or when they concentrate more on their narrow

interests than on the general benefit of the state and society," King Hussein explained.

The King proposed the idea for a charter after the election of 80 representatives to the Lower House of Parliament for the first time since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

"Although I am the one who proposed this idea and defined the objectives and the aims... it is out of my absolute conviction, and the conviction of the people, that a parliamentary, constitutional and democratic life is our choice together," the King said.

The King, in his address, pointed to the developments in Jordan's political life, beginning with the decision to sever ties with the Israeli-occupied West Bank in July 1988 and stressed the heavy burden he undertook as the sole executor throughout the absence of an elected parliament.

While describing the decision to sever ties with the occupied territories as the move that "opened the closed door to national election," he pointed to the April riots of 1989 as the point of inspiration for the need to "renew the social contract."

"I saw that limiting the solution of the problem to conducting national elections is an incomplete procedure because it would mean that we would enter the stage of parliamentary participation while we carry ideas which contradict with or deviate from the foundations upon which this state is created," the King said. "It would definitely paralyse our ability to deal with our prob-

lems."

An analyst-lawyer who is also a member of the commission to draft the National Charter believes that the idea of a National Charter was an old one proposed by the pro-government forces to strengthen their own standing against other political ideologies but that the King expanded the forum to include all spectrums of political thought in the country.

"Sometime ago the pro-establishment forces wanted a charter that would strengthen the Jordanian national identity among those who were benefiting from the regime to compete with the ideologies of others," the lawyer explained.

With the eruption of what is now remembered as the bread riots, the need to address the ideologies and grievances became apparent and the idea of the National Charter was expanded to include all political avenues.

The King himself was the most direct and explicit on why it was necessary to lay guidelines for the work of political parties, he said that the two contributors to the "unsettling" history of political pluralism in the Kingdom were outside control or financing for political parties and the conviction of each party at that time that it alone represented the truth.

Analysts point to a third factor that may have contributed to the King's decision to initiate a charter governing pluralism; laying the foundations of the constitution as the ceiling for political ideology in the country.

"The King was aware that Islamist parties for example believed in an Islamic caliphate rule while the constitution explicitly says the state of authority in Jordan is parliamentary, and hereditary monarchy," one analyst says.

Other schools of thought, while conceding that this argument may have contributed to the decision to propose a charter, maintain that the charter "constitutes a reiteration of legitimacy for the system through orchestrating a procedure that would lead to a renewal of popular approval."

"The constitution may stipulate certain foundations that do not change; however, it is necessary for any system of government to renew its legitimacy after important events," a member of the commission points out in reference to the riots in the south.

Mr. Obaidat, in one of the meetings of the commission pointed to this same line of thoughts when he said: "remember that the constitution was written forty years ago and in those forty years many new images and realities took place which would contribute to the development of our awareness."

However, in the minds of its writers, the charter remains a ground of agreement among the different political ideologies in the country from which legislation will be excerpted. "The charter defines the ground rather than the sky. The legislation derived from it will vary in height, just as the ground is not all the same level. All the legislation, all the same, will be under the dome of the blue sky."

Islamic bloc wins

(Continued from page 1)

he gave before the voting started, voiced his rejection of the idea of segregating the sexes. "All of us, males and females are pharmacists, equal in rights and duties, and no power, however big, can change that," he said. "Our people, especially the pharmacists, have reached a high level of awareness on issues like this," Mr. Humis said.

Another former member of the board, who did not wish to be identified criticised the idea of segregation saying that "male and female pharmacists are members of the association, and have equal rights under the laws of the association."

According to other eye witnesses, the verbal dispute between the two groups became tense and

sometimes turned to outright insults.

Members of the association said that it was the first time in the history of the pharmacists association elections, two separate halls were set up for the voters according to their sexes. "Female pharmacists who wished to cast their votes in the hall designated for males were free to do so, others voted in separate halls," one source told the Jordan Times.

The elections were held to elect a new president for the association, and a new nine-member board for a period of two years.

Contesting for the president's post were three pharmacists: Tawfiq Al Azzeh, Mohammad Hassan Sedar, and Hussam Edine Mismar. Nineteen pharmacists representing pharmacy owners, drugstores and employee

pharmacists, competed for the board membership.

There was reportedly a turnout of 858 pharmacists, 297 of which were women.

In the final count it was announced that Abdul Rahman Issa, Sulaim Khreim and Taber Shakshir won the three seats allocated for warehouses. Tabseem Abbadi, Adli Mansour and Ziad Abu Al Hummus won the employed pharmacists seats. Fadel Nairoukh, said Sadeq, Ahmad Issa and Abdul Rahim Maiaa won the four seats for the owners of drug stores.

Peace team

(Continued from page 1)

In Amman, a security official, who cannot be named under police regulations, said that the

authorities will extend all possible help for the group "until we ensure a safe arrival in Amman."

The police official warned that the group will have to "abide by the laws and regulations of the country in order to avoid disturbances."

Last May, more than 25,000 enthusiastic Jordanians clashed with security forces in the same area during a peace march from Amman to the bridge.

During the remaining three-day walk to Amman, participants planned several activities including fasting, holding silent vigils, planting trees and other symbolic expressions of goodwill and solidarity.

The participants include U.S., Canadian, Japanese, British, Belgian, Finnish, Australian, Irish and Indian citizens.

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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Spot Rate C/US\$	Tokyo C/US\$
Sterling Pound	1.6438	1.6495
Deutsche Mark	1.7483	1.7503
Swiss Franc	1.4955	1.4970
French Franc	5.9200	5.9240
Japanese Yen	139.28	139.25
European Currency Unit	1.1785	1.1765

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	6.06	6.12	6.25	6.66
Sterling Pound	11.50	11.12	10.57	10.87
Deutsche Mark	8.81	8.93	9.00	9.12
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.87
French Franc	9.50	9.57	9.57	9.46
Japanese Yen	7.81	7.85	7.53	7.40
European Currency Unit	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.75

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	363.35	6.75	Silver	4.24	.098

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.683	.685
Sterling Pound	1.1525	1.1563
Deutsche Mark	.3697	.3916
Swiss Franc	.4558	.4581
French Franc	.1151	.1157
Japanese Yen	.4897	.4921
Dutch Guilder	.3456	.3475
Swedish Krona	.1085	.1090
Italian Lira	.0527	.0530
Belgian Franc	.01897	.01906

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.8100
Lebanese Lira	.074	.076
Saudi Riyal	.1817	.1825
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	.1845	.1850
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7450	1.7650
UAE Dirham	.1845	.1850
Greek Drachma	.3460	.3660
Cypriot Pound	1.4090	1.4390

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	4/6/1991 Close	5/6/1991 Close
All-Share	112.69	112.16
Banking Sector	109.69	108.95
Insurance Sector	112.94	112.92
Industry Sector	115.18	114.91
Services Sector	128.50	128.24

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6825/35	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1465/70	Canadian dollar
	1.7550/60	Deutsche marks
	1.9770/80	Dutch guilders
	1.5045/55	Swiss francs
	36.13/17	Belgian francs
	5.9430/80	French francs
	1302/1303	Italian lire
	139.60/70	Japanese yen
	6.3100/50	Swedish crowns
	6.8425/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.7350/7400	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	365.70/366.20	U.S. dollars

Philippine legislators approve cap on foreign debt payments

MANILA (R) — The Philippine congress, defying appeals by President Corason Aquino, approved Thursday a 20 per cent ceiling on foreign debt repayments as part of the national budget.

The senate and the house of representatives separately passed the budget for 1991, which included a provision to limit payments on the country's \$29 billion foreign debt to 20 per cent of 1989 export earnings.

Mrs. Aquino has said she would veto any provision to limit debt payments, saying it would undermine Manila's ability to obtain new loans.

"The amount for the payment of foreign debt, both as to principal and interest, by the national government shall not exceed 20 per cent of the merchandise export receipts for the year 1989," the provision stated.

The export income in 1989 totalled \$7.8 billion.

In 1990, the Philippines' foreign debt repayments totalled around \$3 billion or 36 per cent of last year's export earnings of \$8.2 billion.

"A debt cap provision in any budget legislation or elsewhere sends the wrong signals to those in the international community with whom we have financial and other dealings," Mrs. Aquino said Tuesday.

"We would be placing ourselves in a situation that would be quite untenable," she said.

The legislators went ahead with the debt cap provision, knowing Mrs. Aquino would veto it but acknowledged both houses may find it difficult to muster two-thirds vote to override a presidential veto.

"This is an expression of legislative principle. We are saying that we are not satisfied with the way our debt problem is being handled," Neptali Gonzales, chairman of the senate committee on finance, told reporters before the chamber voted on the budget.

He said international lending institutions should change their outlook towards poor debtor countries like the Philippines and realise that "the old standards can no longer apply."

"If (one day) we cannot pay and our people riot and rampage on the streets, these foreign institutions may have no government to deal with," Mrs. Gonzales said.

Manila is seeking a new money package under a complementary financing programme between commercial banks and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The government wants the banks to lend Manila at least \$250 million and the ADB to extend counterpart funds that would either match or exceed the commercial banks' loans.

Officials earlier estimated new borrowings for this year at \$800 million.

Local banks lend Saudi government \$2.5 billion

RIYADH (AP) — The government borrowed \$2.5 billion from local banks to meet some of the costs of the Gulf war, diplomatic sources have reported.

It was the second dollar-denominated loan the kingdom sought this year to help pay a \$13.5 billion pledge in cash and ground support services for Operation Desert Storm.

Last month, the Saudi government signed a \$4.5 billion loan provided by a group of foreign institutions.

Banking sources told the AP-Dow Jones news service in Bahrain that the new deal was put together by National Commercial Bank and Riyad Bank, the two largest banking institutions in the kingdom, and was syndicated among the other Saudi banks.

The five-year credit was signed in Riyadh last week, they said.

AP-Dow Jones quoted the unnamed bankers as noting terms on the foreign borrowing were more attractive than the local deal.

These were the first foreign borrowing by the kingdom in more than 25 years.

Both loans were surrounded with secrecy, but were arranged with relative ease given the kingdom's standing as the world's largest oil-exporting nation. The Islamic proscription against usury makes borrowing a highly sensitive subject for the Saudi government.

Yemen oil production seen doubling by 1994

SANAA (R) — Yemen's oil production is declining but its output of crude could easily double to around 400,000 barrels per day (b/d) in three years if exploration in the south is successful, oil industry sources have said.

Sanaa recently signed agreements with 16 foreign firms to explore a vast area of its central Shabwa basin in the former socialist south, which merged with its conservative northern neighbour one year ago.

Yemeni officials are pinning high hopes on the results of the drilling, which will begin late this year. But Oil Minister Saleh Abu Bakr Ben Hussainoun is reluctant to speculate.

"We are optimistic and we hope that our production will rise, perhaps to more than 300,000 or 400,000 b/d in the next three years ... but its difficult to guess," he told Reuters.

Western oil industry sources said exploration in the 31,470 square kilometre area relinquished last year by Soviet firm Technoexport was likely to yield major discoveries.

But they said it was unrealistic to think that Yemen, a relative newcomer to the league of oil producers, had reserves to rival its wealthy neighbours on the Arabian Peninsula.

"Realistically, I do think there is good potential for major discoveries that three years down the road could double or triple current production," one senior Western oil executive said.

"If things work out well Yemeni production could rise to 400,000 or 500,000 b/d — but it will definitely not become a new Kuwait or Saudi Arabia," said another.

The Western sources said output from Yemen's western Marib fields — which now provide all of the country's crude — had fallen by about 15,000 b/d to just below 200,000 b/d during the last two months because of a climbing gas-oil ratio.

Output was expected to decline by another 10,000 b/d in the coming months because of limitations on equipment which was unable to reinject gas from the cap over the oil reservoir, they said.

The Marib fields are operated by the Yemen Hunt Oil Company, a joint venture with U.S. firms Hunt and Exxon. About 65 per cent of the oil now goes to the Yemen government and the rest to Hunt.

Before the Gulf crisis Yemen exported all its share of the oil, which is a high quality, sulphur-free crude.

The U.N. Security Council embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude forced Sanaa to replace some 50,000 b/d of imported high sulphur oil processed at its ageing refinery in Aden with its own finer Marib crude, reducing badly needed oil revenues.

The sources said the decline in Marib production, mostly from its main Alif and Azal fields, would be offset next year by increased production from the area's Assad Al Kamil field, which came on stream last September with about 28,000 b/d of crude.

Completion of a new central processing unit in Al Kamil by September 1992 is expected to boost output there to 45,000 b/d. Gas treatment facilities in Alif are also being expanded.

Western executives said it was unlikely a remaining Soviet-operated block in Shabwa, which used to provide South Yemen with about 10,000 b/d of crude, would come back on stream soon.

Technical problems forced the Iyad west field, with about 54 producing wells, to shut down just before the Yemenis united. All its crude had been carried by truck to Aden, the main southern port and location of the new country's biggest refinery.

Mr. Hussainoun said Yemen was looking for a Western firm to take over operations in the remaining Soviet block.

But Western executives said this would be difficult as the company would have to pay back the \$500 million Technoexport claimed to have spent on its development.

An intensive drilling programme to assess the size of a new field discovered in the province of Hadramout was under way and results would be known in about five months, Mr. Hussainoun said.

Industry sources said each of three wells drilled in that field — called Masilah — by Canadian Occidental had produced about 3,000 b/d. Five more wells would be drilled this year.

Yemen is believed to have recoverable crude reserves of about four to five billion barrels, with about one billion from Marib.

Mr. Hussainoun said drilling in a 2,180 square kilometre block straddling the Marib and Shabwa region would begin in August.

Yemen signed a production sharing agreement with a foreign consortium for the block, recently named "Jana," just before the Yemenis united.

U.S. companies plan less foreign investments

WASHINGTON (AP) — American companies plan to boost their overseas investments by six per cent this year, down from the 19 per cent average increases posted during the previous three years, the government has said.

The Commerce Department said a survey showed that majority-owned foreign affiliates of U.S. firms planned \$61.2 billion in capital spending this year, up from \$56 billion in planned spending in 1990.

The planned overseas capital spending also would be greater than the one per cent increase reflected in an earlier poll taken last summer. And it would continue to exceed the projected two per cent growth in domestic investments.

Still, the boost in planned foreign investments would be far less than the 21 per cent planned for 1990 and actual spending increases totalling 13 per cent in 1989 and 24 per cent in 1988.

The department's Bureau of Economic Analysis, which prepared the report, said the 1991 projected slowdown in growth reflects several factors. Among them are reduced need following high levels of capital spending in preceding years and parent companies' constrained ability to finance overseas projects because of sluggish U.S. economic conditions and weakening economies in some host countries.

"Petroleum firms in recent years have concentrated their exploration and development efforts abroad where new oil and gas fields tend to be larger and can be developed profitably at lower prices than the smaller, domestic fields," it explained.

The report said companies planned a 13 per cent increase in petroleum investments, to \$18.6 billion. The increase reflects host country approval of several large projects at year's end "and, to a lesser extent, greater exploration and development in response to the increase in oil prices following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait."

The department added the effect of higher prices probably would be limited because the increase was temporary. Oil prices shot up to more than \$40 a barrel within weeks of the Aug. 2 invasion, but now are less than \$20 a barrel.

The survey showed that manufacturers plan to increase spending by four per cent, to \$29.8 billion. Increases are planned by all major industries except primary and fabricated metals, and chemicals.

"Much of manufacturers' spending has been directed toward Europe, where markets are expanding as a result of economic liberalisation, such as the 1992 single-market initiative of the European Communities and the market-oriented economic reforms in eastern Europe," the survey showed.

"Spending also has been directed toward the Far East, where economic growth continues to exceed that in the West," the report said.

More tourists visit Iran

NICOSIA (R) — The number of foreign tourists visiting Iran reached 160,000 in the year to March 20, 70 per cent more than the previous year, the Iranian news agency IRNA has said.

It quoted Mr. Morteza Haji, deputy minister of Islamic culture and guidance, for the figure but gave no breakdown of the nationalities of the tourists.

Mr. Haji said 900,000 tourists were expected to travel to Iran during the next five years.

Iran is aiming to revive a tourist industry almost shut down by the 1979 Islamic revolution and the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Travel agencies say the efforts are hampered by a shortage of hotel rooms and other facilities as well as Iran's Islamic dress code which turns off many potential Western tourists.

In a separate report, IRNA quoted Iran Air managing director, Mr. Hassan Shafii, as saying the state-owned airline carried a million passengers on international routes and more than four million on domestic flights in the year to March 20.

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Laila Alawi in
THE INTOXICATED

Arabic

Show: 30:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

NATO agrees way ahead for post-cold war security, defence

COPENHAGEN (R) — NATO agreed Friday how to shape a new security and defence architecture for the post-cold war era, ceding some ground to organisations like the European Community as long as they do not undermine the alliance.

The 16 NATO foreign ministers, at the end of a two-day meeting in Copenhagen, agreed to hold an alliance summit in Rome in November which will approve a military and political blueprint for NATO's future.

They pledged to strengthen the 34-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), laid out NATO's main tasks and agreed European NATO members were free to strengthen their voice on defence matters independently of the United States — the alliance's senior member.

"This meeting has taken us an

important step forward on the way to the most radical transformation of our alliance in its history," NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner told a news conference.

The ministers agreed Thursday to increase military and political contacts with their former cold war enemies and opened fresh perspectives for arms control.

"We have cleared away a number of fears and phantasms," said Gabriel Robin, France's ambassador to NATO.

The ministers said NATO would remain the essential forum for safeguarding Western security and explicitly welcomed, for the first time, the European Community's moves to closer political integration, which may include a defence identity.

France, Germany and Spain had sought his recognition since they favour a more independent

European voice on defence with the EC. Eleven of the 12 community states are also NATO members.

But the ministers also said any moves to create a stronger European voice must not undermine the trans-Atlantic link at the heart of NATO and must find ways to include members of the alliance, like Norway and Turkey, which are not EC members.

This reassured the United States and some European allies that there would not be a "go it alone," European defence policy.

"We set out to guidelines, the framework for our future relationship," Woerner said. "The road is clear. It's up to the Europeans to take decisions within this framework."

Woerner said NATO was prepared to meet the security concerns of the new democracies in Eastern Europe, which are worried about living in the shadow of an unstable Soviet Union, by offering them more contacts and building up the CSCE.

Although NATO has told them they cannot join the alliance, the ministers said their security was of direct concern to them.

Woerner refused to say whether this amounted to a security guarantee but said NATO wanted Moscow included in its contacts.

"We want to build the new Europe with, and not against, the Soviet Union," he said.

The Copenhagen meeting was one of the major building blocks for the Rome summit, to be held on Nov. 7 and 8.

Last week, NATO defence ministers approved plans for the alliance's military shakeup, including the formation of "rapid reaction" forces to face any new threats to Europe.

Sihanouk switches position to join Cambodian Supreme National Council

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodian guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, on the sidelines of peace efforts for the past several months, said Friday he would take a seat on his country's Supreme National Council (SNC).

Sihanouk said in a statement he would join the SNC, which brings together government and guerrilla representatives under a United Nations peace plan, replacing a member of his faction.

The decision appeared to conflict with an accord reached in Indonesia this week between Sihanouk and his adversary, Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen.

In Jakarta, the two agreed Sihanouk should join the council as chairman and Hun Sen as vice-chairman. Under that agree-

ment the 12-man council would have been enlarged to 14.

The prince's powerful Khmer Rouge ally vetoed that accord.

"I do not want to join the SNC as its chairman, but can also work intensively as a simple member," Sihanouk said.

The 68-year-old former monarch is known to change his mind frequently.

Hun Sen left Bangkok for Phnom Penh shortly before Sihanouk's announcement.

Sihanouk proposed an urgent meeting of the SNC in the Thai town of Surin where his forces have a headquarters.

Sihanouk said he had made the decision because he wanted to see the SNC operational as soon as possible to speed up the peace process.

On Thursday, Sihanouk said he had accepted an invitation from Hun Sen to return to Phnom Penh for the first time since January 1979, when invading Vietnamese toppled the Khmer Rouge.

Sihanouk said he would go in November for one or two months but this did not signal a break with the Khmer Rouge.

The circumstances under which the visit would take place were unclear. A Sihanoukist official said the prince would return only as head of the SNC.

Sihanouk has tried to play a dual role in the Cambodian conflict, portrayed himself as a revered figure above the political fray while maintaining a guerrilla army to fight Phnom Penh.

U.S. partially unwraps secret Stealth missile

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Department of Defence has said that it is developing a radar-evading cruise missile that can be launched from the ground or from planes, including the B-2 Stealth bomber.

The cost of developing, testing and producing the programme's 8,650 missiles is \$15.1 billion, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams told reporters. That puts the cost of each missile at about \$1.7 million.

Although the programme has been underway since 1986, all information about the missile,

which will have a conventional warhead, has been classified.

The Stealth missile is designed to be used by the navy and the air force to hit high-priority targets such as airfields and aircraft, aircraft shelters, air defence sites, command and communications bunkers, ships, tanks or other armoured vehicles, Williams said.

Williams said the secrecy was due to the missile's "Stealth" characteristics, which involve the weapons' design and construction materials that help it evade enemy radar.

Australia supports keeping U.S. bases in Philippines

MANILA (R) — Australia urged the Philippines Friday to grant U.S. forces continued use of huge military bases in the country, saying they were vital in maintaining peace and stability in Asia.

"We very much hope the United States and the Philippines will be able to agree on mutually acceptable terms for continued U.S. access to the bases," Richard Woolcott, Australia's secretary for foreign affairs and trade, said on the second day of a security conference in Manila.

"The present framework of United States alliances provide, an element of certainty and predictability, and a solid basis on which to build a positive security environment," Woolcott said. "This would be in the interests of the wider region."

Regional security experts warned at the conference against the United States scaling down its forces in Asia too rapidly.

China might "fill in a possible power vacuum in South East Asia" if U.S. forces were withdrawn from the region, Masashi Nishihara, a member of Japan's National Defence Academy, said.

Jin Dexiang, deputy director of the Institute of Contemporary International Relations in Peking, said the end of the cold war could lead to increased friction between Washington and Tokyo that "might one day burst into political and economic conflicts."

Talks between Manila and Washington on Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Dockyard in the Philippines, the largest U.S. facilities in Asia, have dragged on for nearly a year.

Delegates and academics from about 20 nations, including the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, China, Australia, the European Community and the six-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), are trying to map out strategy for security concerns into the next century.

Canberra welcomed gradual reduction in U.S. forces, which should be predictable and subject to review, Woolcott said.

Senior U.S. State Department official Denise Anderson said the U.S. remained committed to ensuring South East Asian security "as long as necessary and as long as we are welcome."

The U.S. lease on its Philippine bases, which guard vital sea lanes in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, expires in September.

Fresh lava wells up, threatens new Japan volcano eruption

TOKYO (AP) — A fresh dome of lava welled up ominously in Mount Unzen's fiery crater Friday as authorities expanded their evacuation order to about 5,100 residents.

The latest accumulation of lava led the National Meteorological Agency to warn that a large scale flood of lava, rock and hot gas could burst from the mountain again. A similar eruption killed at least 38 people Monday.

Despite the danger, 1,000 army troops resumed efforts Friday to retrieve the remaining bodies on the mountain using helicopters and ground search teams. Five or more bodies were believed to be missing.

On Thursday, one of the 10 helicopters made an emergency landing in a tobacco field after developing engine trouble in the ash-laden air.

OAS reports growing rights abuses in Latin America

SANTIAGO, Chile (R) — The Organisation of American States (OAS), reporting growing rights abuses in parts of Latin America, urged member countries Thursday to ratify human rights accords and grant observers easier access.

A report to the OAS annual general assembly said death squads continue to operate in El Salvador and predicted that economic crisis will worsen the rights situation in Cuba.

The OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission reported an "alarming climate of violence" in Guatemala and urged Haiti's new government to stop persistent abuses by former members of the Tonton-Macoutes, the private army of the ousted Duvalier dictators.

The report noted improvements in Nicaragua, but criticised the Panamanian government for failing to compensate victims of the 1989 U.S. invasion.

The assembly resolved to strengthen monitoring of human rights, in line with a decision to take steps to counter military coups, including possible economic sanctions.

Only 13 of the 34 member states have accepted jurisdiction of the Inter-American Human Rights Court and only eight have ratified the Inter-American Convention Against Torture.

The OAS report said talks between El Salvador's government and FMLN guerrillas were "a very positive step."

But it added: "The activity of the death squadrons and the security forces lead to serious human rights violations and the authorities of the Salvadorean judicial system seem to lack either the will or the means to stop such conduct."

In Nicaragua, the Sandinista security forces had become a "state within a state," the report said.

It said repression of rights groups in Cuba had grown, with 30 rights campaigners now in jail. Cuba was excluded from the OAS in 1962 for exporting Marxist revolution.

MIRAL

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Russian election campaign enters final week

MOSCOW (AP) — Beginning the final week of the campaign for president of Russia, Boris Yeltsin has hearkened back to the anti-privilege posture that sparked his political comeback.

"My family lives like any other Moscow family, like workers and clerks that have no privileges," Yeltsin said on the evening television interview programme the Who Is Who.

"My wife, like other poor Moscow women, goes shopping for three or four hours everyday," Yeltsin said, answering a question about his lifestyle. "As for medical treatment, I am treated in a district hospital which is not far from a house I live in."

Most Soviet leaders' families are allowed to use special shops which have a much better selection of food and goods than is available to the average Soviet.

Yeltsin, who was ousted from the then-ruling Communist Politburo in 1987, made his political comeback in 1988 on such privilege-bashing. His populist stance and charismatic persona have made him the most visible and influential gaud to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Yeltsin is favoured to win the June 12 election for the post of president of the Russian Federation, which has half the country's population and three-quarters of its wealth.

Yeltsin has led the republic for more than a year as parliament chief, the highest post until parliament last month created the presidency.

A poll released this week by the National Public Opinion Studies Centre found 55 per cent of respondents saying they would vote for Yeltsin, a drop from earlier polls that gave him around 60 per cent.

A candidate must receive at least 50 per cent of the vote to win without a runoff.

The poll found that 18 per cent of the 1,018 people surveyed last weekend in 13 cities said they had not yet decided for whom to vote.

It said 7 per cent supported Yeltsin's closest opponent, former Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, 6 per cent backed former Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin, and 5 per cent said they would vote for Liberal-Democratic Party candidate Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

All the candidates have been touring the vast Russian Republic in recent weeks, meeting workers and speaking to crowds in a campaign that has lacked much of the bravado and pomp associated with Western politics.

Bakatin made a one-day trip to the southern Russian city of Volgograd, where he visited a department store and a factory, the independent news agency Interfax reported.

"One could pass from a market (economy) to socialism in one night, but it's a long way to try to do the opposite," Bakatin told workers.

Creation of a market economy has emerged as one of the main issues in the campaign, with Ryzhkov and Bakatin generally favouring a more conservative transition.

Gorbachev ends brief visit to Sweden

STOCKHOLM (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev left Sweden for home after an eight-hour visit dominated by talks on the three Soviet Baltic republics, airport officials said.

Gorbachev visited Sweden after delivering his lecture in Norway Wednesday as winner of the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize.

Gorbachev, stung by Western criticism of Moscow's Baltic policy, faced further questioning Thursday about the autonomy ambitions of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania during a brief visit to Sweden.

Representatives of the three independence-seeking Soviet republics and some Swedish opposition politicians are determined to raise the Baltic question during Gorbachev's eight-hour stay in Sweden.

In Oslo Wednesday, Gorbachev angrily accused Western news media of biased reporting of the Baltic republics, saying they ignored what he called discrimination against Russian and other ethnic minorities there.

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson will discuss the Baltic issue during a two-hour meeting with Gorbachev, the main event of his working visit, according to Swedish news media.

Gorbachev is accompanied by his wife Raisa Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh.

Under Carlsson, Palme's successor as prime minister and leader of the ruling Social Democratic Party, Sweden has moved firmly away from tacit endorsement of Soviet Baltic policy to open support for the three republics' bid for autonomy.

But conservative opposition leader Carl Bildt, for one, wants Sweden to go further.

Meanwhile Latvian and Soviet officials opened a new round of talks Thursday on the political, economic and social steps toward secession.

The talks, postponed from mid-May at the Kremlin's request, were the second round since the January military crackdown in the Baltics.



Prime Minister Chung Woon-Shik is seen after being pelted with eggs and flour during a visit to a Seoul campus Monday.

Students allow autopsy on South Korean protester

SEOUL (R) — South Korean students facing a backlash of public outrage over an assault on the prime minister backed away from a bloody confrontation Friday by permitting a post mortem on a student killed in a May protest.

Dropping defiant threats to prevent the autopsy with rocks and more than 10,000 petrol bombs, demonstrators allowed government coroners into Paik Hospital to investigate the death of Kim Kwi-Jong in a May 25 demonstration, witnesses said.

"The moderates are backing off, the protests are losing momentum," a diplomat said.

Most South Koreans regarded Monday's attack on the government's second-in-command, a noted scholar, as a national humiliation.

Prime Minister Chung Woon-Shik was pelted with eggs and flour and manhandled for half an hour on a visit to a Seoul campus Monday.

Confucian ethics run deep in South Korea where age and scholarship are venerated.

Stung into action by the attack, President Roh Tae-Woo has ordered a crackdown on violent protest, a move welcomed nationwide, letters and comments to radio and newspapers show.

Roh is expected to reject later an offer by Education Minister Yoon Hyung-Sup to resign over the incident, the semi-official Yonhap news agency said.

Arrest warrants have been issued for 86 dissidents and labour radicals and for 16 students accused of taking part in the assault on the premier.

One, business student Chon Kap-Ki, 21, gave himself up voluntarily Thursday, police said.

Late Thursday, the government detained the nation's best known dissident, Moon Ik-Hwan.

Moon, a Presbyterian pastor sentenced to a seven year jail term for visiting North Korea in 1989, has played a leading role in the protests that have rocked the country this year.

Dissidents, students and radical labour activists plan nationwide rallies Saturday to protest against the arrest.

"The arrest of Pastor Moon, who has devoted his life for unification and democracy, is ignoring his opinion of our people and world wide," an organisers' statement said.

The size of the turnout will be closely watched to gauge how much support protesters can muster.

Released late last year on medical grounds, Moon, 72, was a leader of the funeral committee opposing to autopsy on Kim.

Moon, was also a leader of the funeral committee for Kang Kyung-Dae, killed by riot police with iron pipes on April 26. His death ignited the protests of the past six weeks, the most violent in South Korea since 1987.

Quayle urges Slovakia not to split from Prague

BARDEJOV, Czechoslovakia (R) — U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle urged the Czech and Slovak nations Friday to stay together in one country, saying this was the best way to preserve stability in Central Europe.

Speaking at Bardejov, a mediaeval fortified town in eastern Slovakia, Quayle made clear he thought it was in the best interests of Slovaks seeking greater autonomy to stay in the Czechoslovakian federation.

"Czechs and Slovaks together have a proud tradition of democracy and freedom," he told an international audience in St Egidius Church in the town centre.

"We are delighted that you have succeeded in establishing a society, united yet pluralistic," said Quayle, who is on a five-nation tour of Eastern Europe.

"Surely such a society offers the best prospect for freedom, prosperity and security. This is

the best course of action for the Czech and Slovak people and for the stability of Europe."

Quayle was speaking to an international crowd of academics and government officials at the Institute for East-West Security Studies.

Quayle was met by several thousand people when he arrived in the town, which is close to the Polish border. He is the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Slovakia.

Despite Quayle's appeal for Czechoslovakia not to split up, a banner "Independence for Slovakia" was unfurled over the crowd he addressed outside Bardejov town hall and some members of crowd waved the Slovak national flag.

Quayle told the crowd he appreciated Czechoslovakia's diversity but saw its future as a united federal republic.

Thai, Vietnamese military leaders urge closer ties

HANOI (R) — Thailand's supreme military commander arrived in Vietnam Friday heading a large army delegation and urged Hanoi, Bangkok's long-time rival, to help to forge closer bilateral military and economic ties.

General Sunthorn Kongsompong, who led a military coup in Thailand last February, and Vietnamese Chief of Staff General Doan Khue said in separate speeches their countries were ready to exchange permanent military representatives.

"We are ready to support you in building your country," Sunthorn told a group of 10 Vietnamese generals and high-level government officials. "We also hope Vietnam and the Vietnamese people support us in building our country, especially in the economic and social fields."

Khue said Vietnam hoped Thailand would become more stable and developed after the February change of government.

"I hope after this visit that in Bangkok and Hanoi we will establish military offices so we can coordinate activities," he said.

"The Thai side is ready to send a military representative to Hanoi," said Sunthorn. His one-day trip is the latest in a series of exchange visits by Thai and Vietnamese military leaders.

Hanoi hoped Sunthorn's visit

would help Vietnam to expand military and other ties with non-Communist countries in the region, Vietnam's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman told a news conference Thursday.

Indonesia is the only non-Communist South East Asian country whose embassy in Hanoi has a military attaché.

Thailand could play a key role in helping Vietnam to break out of its isolation and integrate politically and economically into South East Asia, diplomats say.

Thailand provides sanctuary to Cambodian guerrillas fighting the pro-Hanoi government in Phnom Penh and allows China and other countries to ship weapons to them.

Sunthorn, who is due to retire in October at the age of 60, was scheduled to meet Vietnamese President Vo Chi Cong, Prime Minister Do Muoi and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

Sunthorn's 30-member delegation was expected to organise a summit of Thai and Vietnamese government leaders, diplomats said.

Last month, France became the first Western country to station a military attaché in Hanoi, the French embassy said Friday.

In a separate development, the two Hanoi set up to search for U.S. soldiers Missing In Action (MIA) after the Vietnam

War have left the country at the request of the government, diplomats said Thursday.

Vietnamese officials, however, denied a report that Hanoi had asked the new office to close temporarily and said it would formally open later at an unspecified date.

Diplomats in Hanoi said Garrett Bell and Robert Destatte, both Vietnam War veterans working for the U.S. Department of defence, left Hanoi for Bangkok on June 1.

The two men, who arrived in Hanoi in May as part of a U.S. delegation working on the MIA issue, were asked to leave by June 1 and told they would be contacted later about when they could return, the diplomats said.

The Hanoi government apparently did not want the two men, who speak fluent Vietnamese, to be in the capital during the important seventh congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, diplomats said. The congress is scheduled for June 24-27.

A Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman did not comment on whether the two men had been asked to leave Hanoi. But she made it clear that their departure did not mean their office was closed.

"The office has not been opened yet. How can it be closed?" She said when asked by reporters if Hanoi had asked the

Americans to leave and the office to close temporarily.

She said preparations were under way to open the office formally, but Washington had not officially told Hanoi who would head it.

Hanoi and Washington announced in April agreement on the U.S. office in Hanoi, the first official U.S. presence there since 1955. The countries have no diplomatic relations.

They did not say at the time when the office would open.

But diplomats in Hanoi said Bell and Destatte were told by Washington in May, one day before flying from Bangkok to Hanoi, to stay there for three months and begin work.

Vietnam's Communist Party has been secretive about its congresses in the past, but is trying this time to show it is more open.

The government said it would give visas to an unlimited number of visiting journalists to cover the congress.

Hanoi residents said senior government officials were told recently they were not allowed to meet high-level foreign diplomats or business people in June or July, apparently to avoid questions about the congress.

The congress will adopt economic and political policies for the next five years and may decide to replace several members of the party's ageing politburo.

COLUMN

Prince William chats after surgery

LONDON (R) — Prince William, eight-year-old grandson of Britain's Queen Elizabeth and future heir to the throne, was making a good recovery Tuesday after an operation on a skull fracture, Buckingham Palace said.

The prince, eldest son of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, was hit accidentally with a golf club at his private boarding school Monday. A neurosurgeon, Sir Richard Hayward, operated to check for bone splinters after tests showed a dented bone in the royal forehead, a condition known as a depressed fracture.

The palace said surgeons were happy with his progress after the 70-minute operation and expected no lasting ill effects. His mother kept vigil through the night at London's Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. William ate breakfast and chatted happily. The fair-haired prince, nicknamed "wild Willie" and "basher" by friends, was practising on his school's nine-hole golf course when caught above his left eye by a swing from a classmate.

A palace spokesman said that, in talkative mood, he was visited by younger brother Prince Harry, aged six.

Spanish robber gets freedom and job offer

MADRID (R) — Spain's most popular robber, a security guard who stole \$2.7 million from his employer, walked free from a Madrid prison to start a new job — with a security firm.

Dionisio Rodriguez Martin, 42, drove off with his vanload of cash two years ago and resurfaced in Rio De Janeiro with a blond wig and cosmetic surgery on his nose. He was arrested by Brazilian police and extradited last July to Spain.

After a much publicised trial, a Madrid court last Friday sentenced him to three years' jail for misappropriation and ordered him to return the money, but "El Dioni" went free as he had already served half that sentence before trial. "You might not believe this, but they have offered me a job as public relations man for a security firm," he told a mass of reporters and cameramen outside the jail. "I am going to be an example to society."

Newlyweds indicted in fatal stabbing

OWENSBORO, Kentucky (AP) — The day after they married, a man and woman were behind bars charged with murdering the bride's former boyfriend.

Michael Lee Hall, 31, and his wife, Sylvia, 32, were to be arraigned on charges of stabbing to death Mrs. Hall's former boyfriend, Patrick Lewis, seven hours after Friday evening's wedding.

Lewis, 37, was fatally stabbed in the chest with a kitchen knife outside his apartment, Daviess County coroner Bob Howe said. His body was found by a neighbour on Saturday morning. Investigators alleged that Hall, who was on a weekend furlough from a prison work-release programme, carried out the killing and that Mrs. Hall was a conspirator. They were arrested and charged with murder Saturday. "If she assisted or counselled or encouraged or cooperated with him in committing the murder," she would be responsible just as if she committed the murder," said Daviess County prosecutor Tom Castlen. Both face sentences of 20 years to life in prison if convicted, he said.

'Lost squadron' still missing

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (R) — The five Avenger planes found off the Florida coast are not the "lost squadron" missing since 1945 but the cluster of wrecked aircraft may add new romance to the mystery of Bermuda Triangle disappearances. Members of scientific search project, the Underwater Explorers who announced the tantalising discovery last month, have announced that the five planes' numbers and insignia did not match those of the lost squadron of Flight 19. The so-called lost squadron — five Avenger dive bombers carrying 14 navy flyers — disappeared 45 years ago on a training mission from the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station, a station where a young George Bush once trained. They flew off on Dec. 5, 1945, into a deep haze and were feared to have vanished in the legendary Bermuda Triangle, an area of the Atlantic bounded by Melbourne in northern Florida, Bermuda and Puerto Rico, in which many ships have been lost without obvious explanation.

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